

RED- EYES STC

14

**Kaoru
Mori**



**BIRD-
EYE
STORY**

14

**Kaoru
Mori**

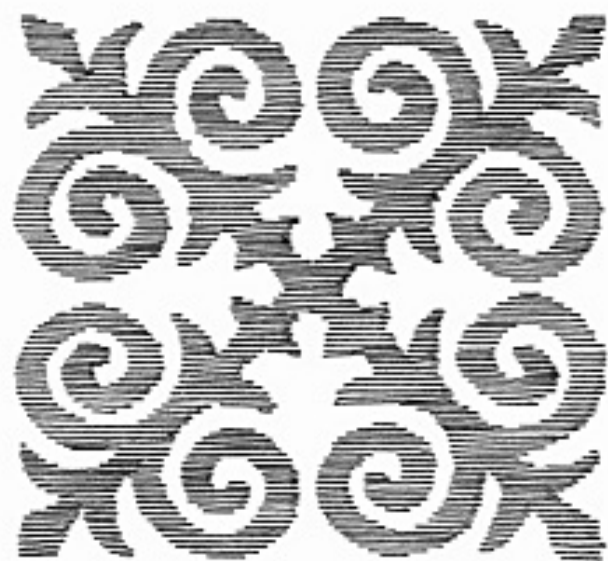


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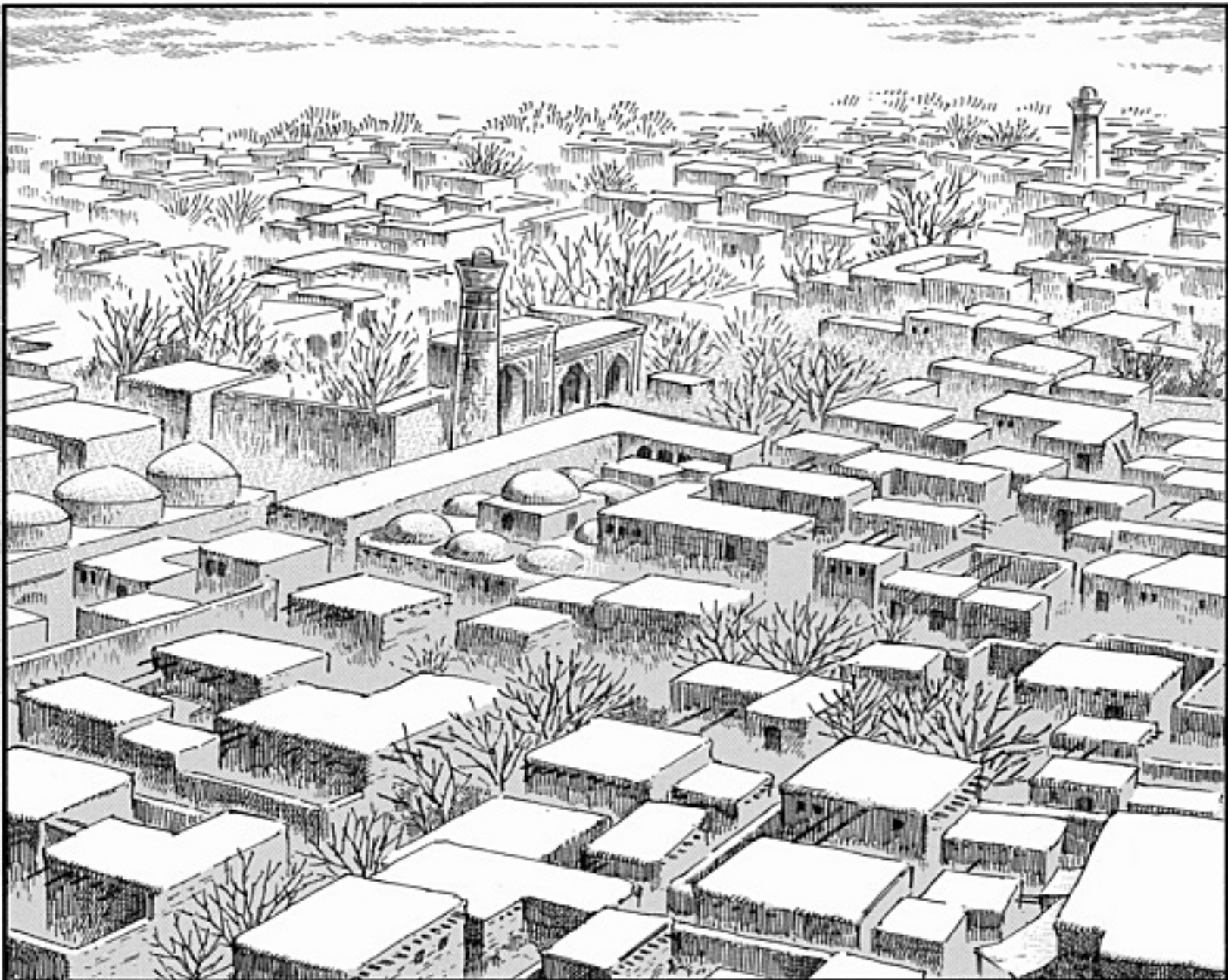
◆
CHAPTER 96
MEETING
◆

*CENTRAL
ASIA IN THE
NINETEENTH
CENTURY.*



WINTER.







WE HAVE
NO IDEA HOW
LONG IT WILL
BE BEFORE
KARLUK GETS
BACK, SO
WHY DON'T
YOU WAIT
INSIDE?

IT'S
COLD
TOO.



AMIR?

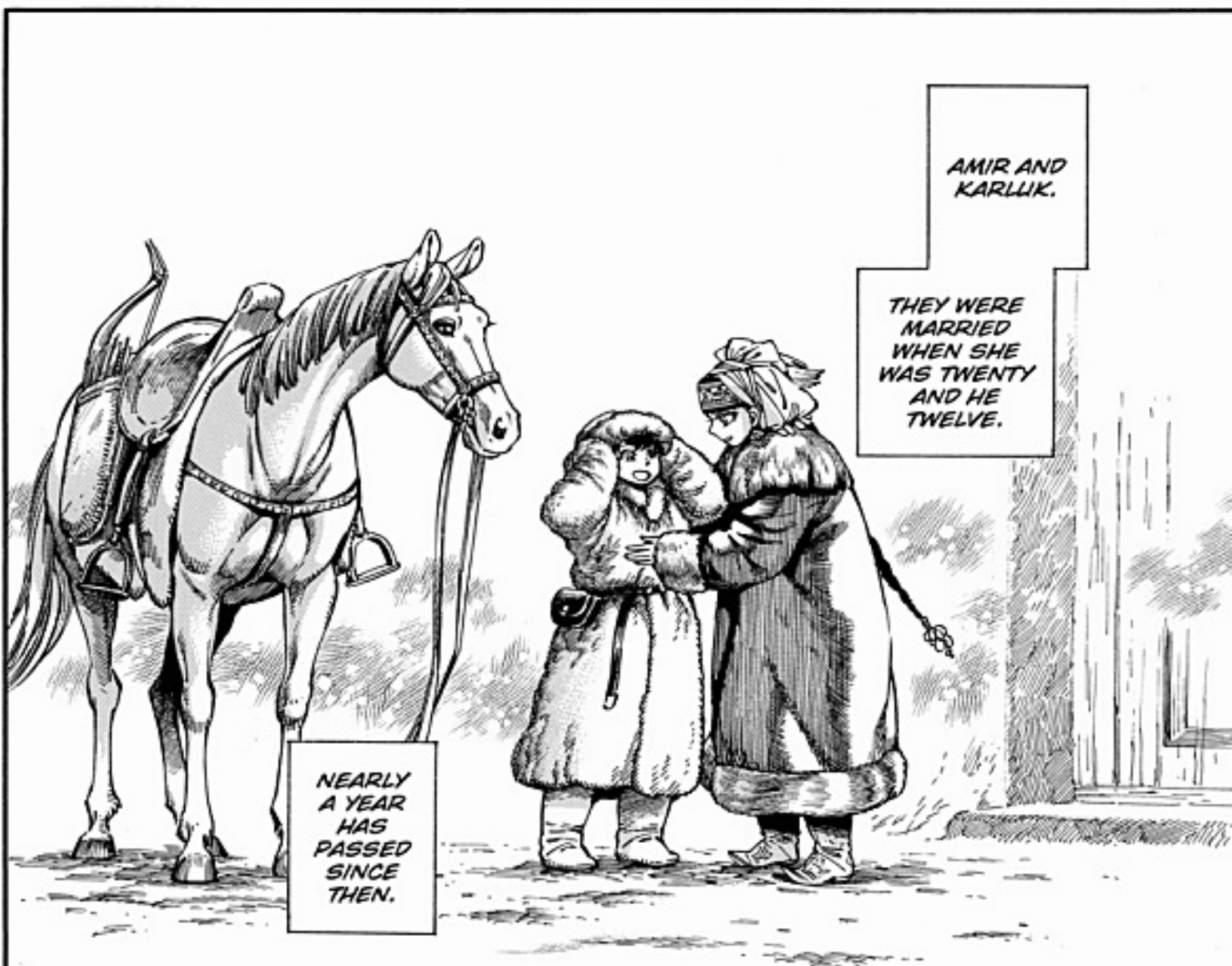


NO.
I'M ALL
RIGHT.

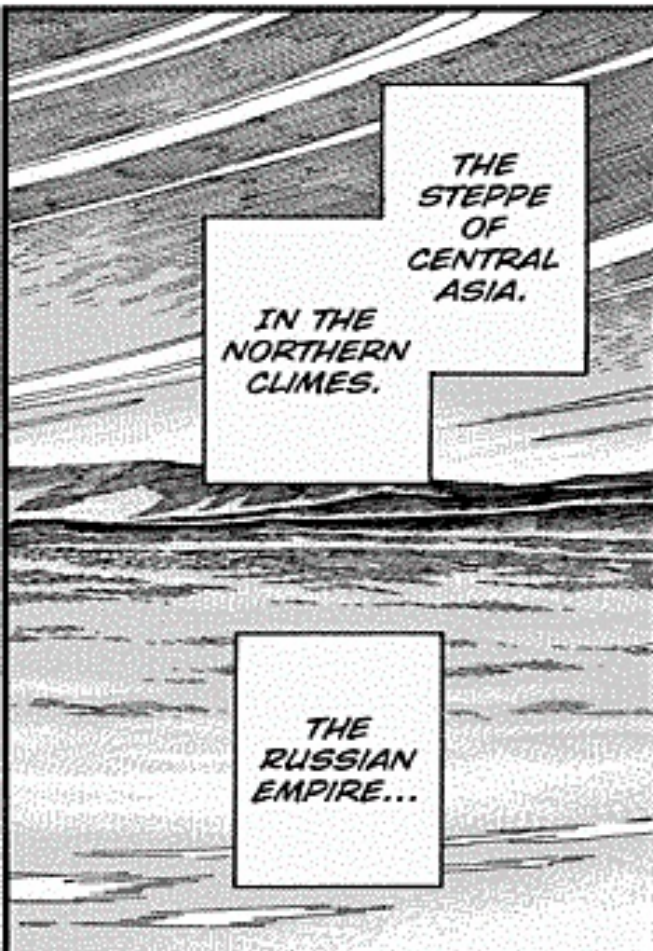
I'M NOT
ALL THAT
COLD.











IN THE
NORTHERN
CLIMES.

THE
STEPPE
OF
CENTRAL
ASIA.

THE
RUSSIAN
EMPIRE...

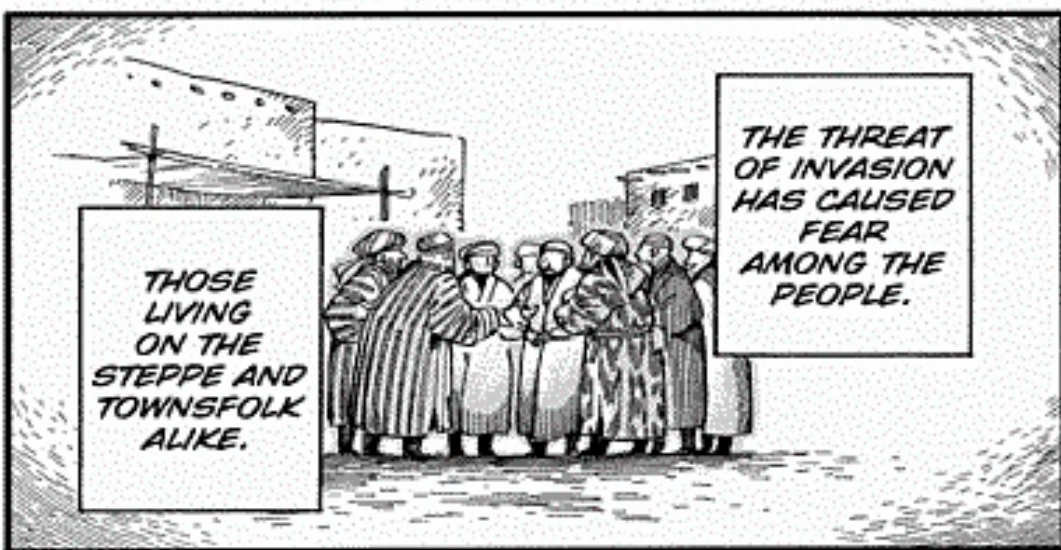


...RUSSIA
HAS
DECIDED
TO MARCH
SOUTH.

UNSETTLED
BY THE
WAY THE
EXTREME
COLD CUTS
OFF THEIR
LAND...



...DESIRES
A HARBOR
THAT IS NOT
FROZEN IN
WINTER.



THOSE
LIVING
ON THE
STEPPE AND
TOWNSFOLK
ALIKE.

THE THREAT
OF INVASION
HAS CAUSED
FEAR
AMONG THE
PEOPLE.



WHAT'S
WRONG,
JORUK?



ARE YOU
SURE THEY
JUST WANT
TO TALK?

HEY...



IF THEY
BRING THEIR
WEAPONS, WE
CAN JUST GO
HOME.

EVERY-
ONE THERE
WILL BE
UNARMED.



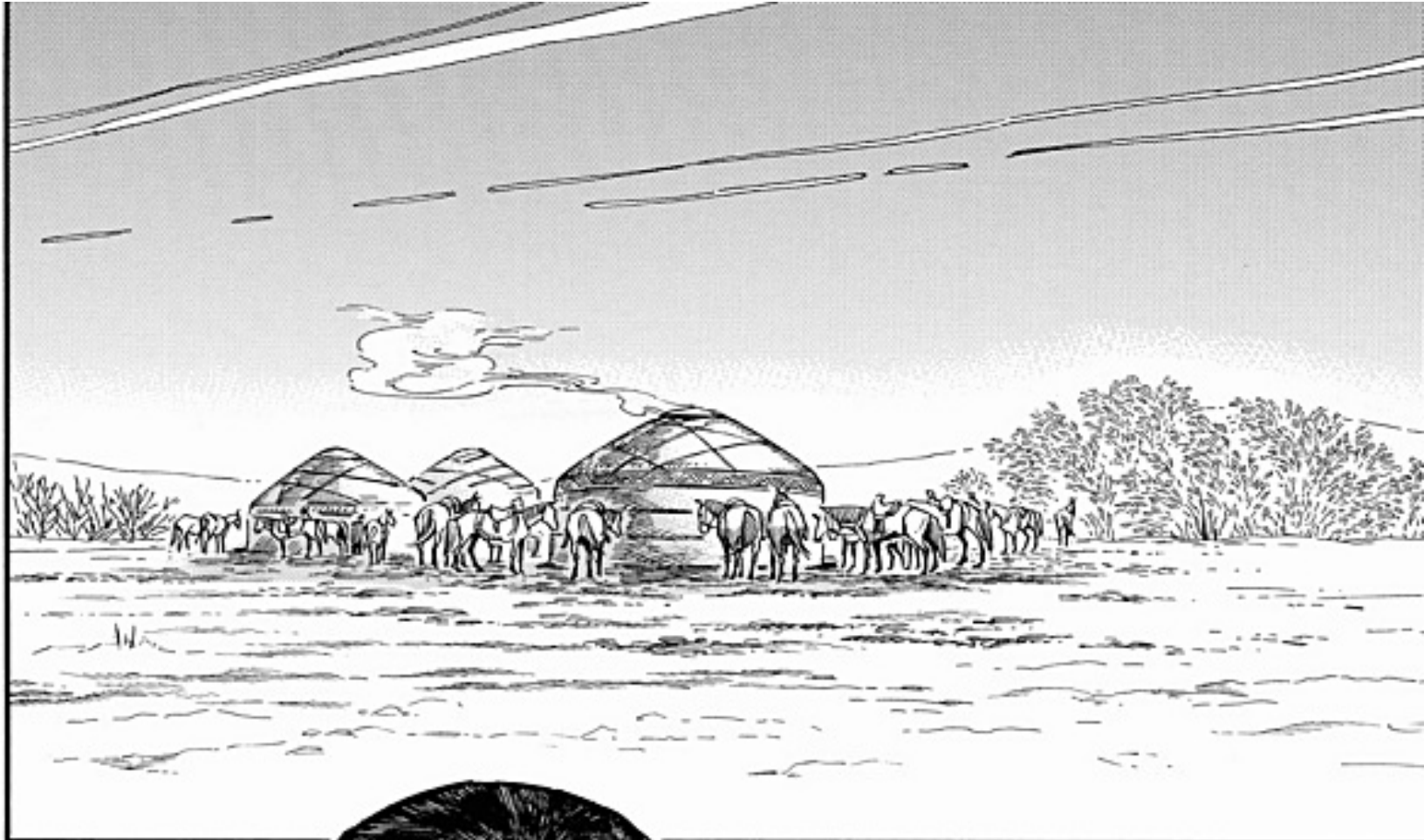
DOESN'T
THAT PUT
YOU ON
EDGE?

I MEAN,
WE'RE
SUPPOSED
TO COME
UNARMED.

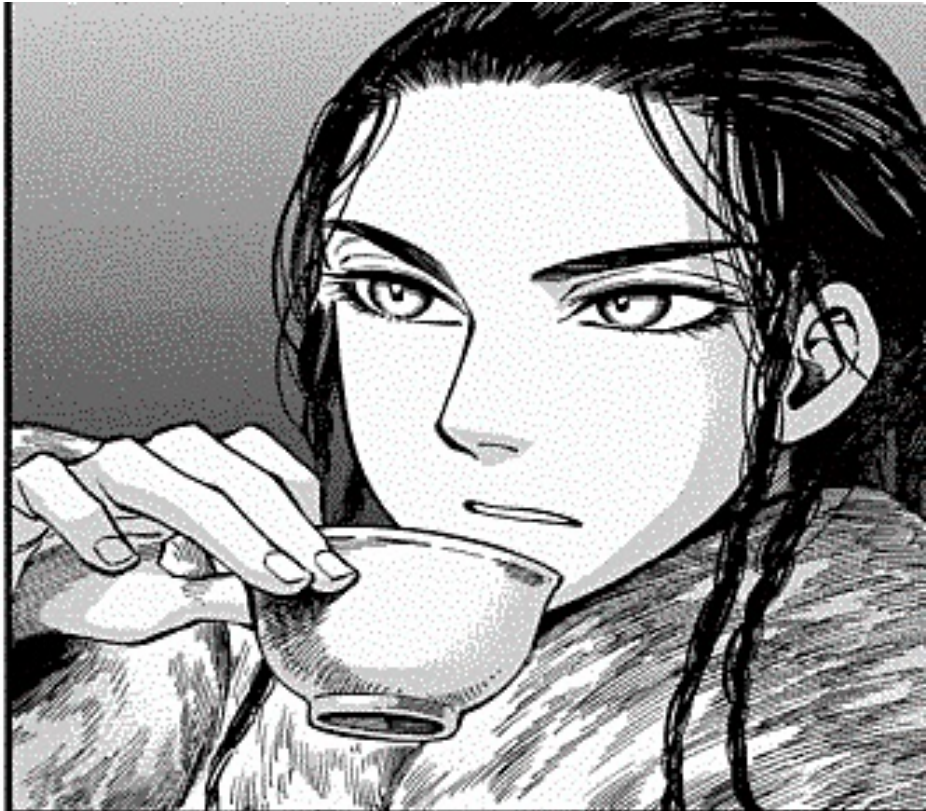


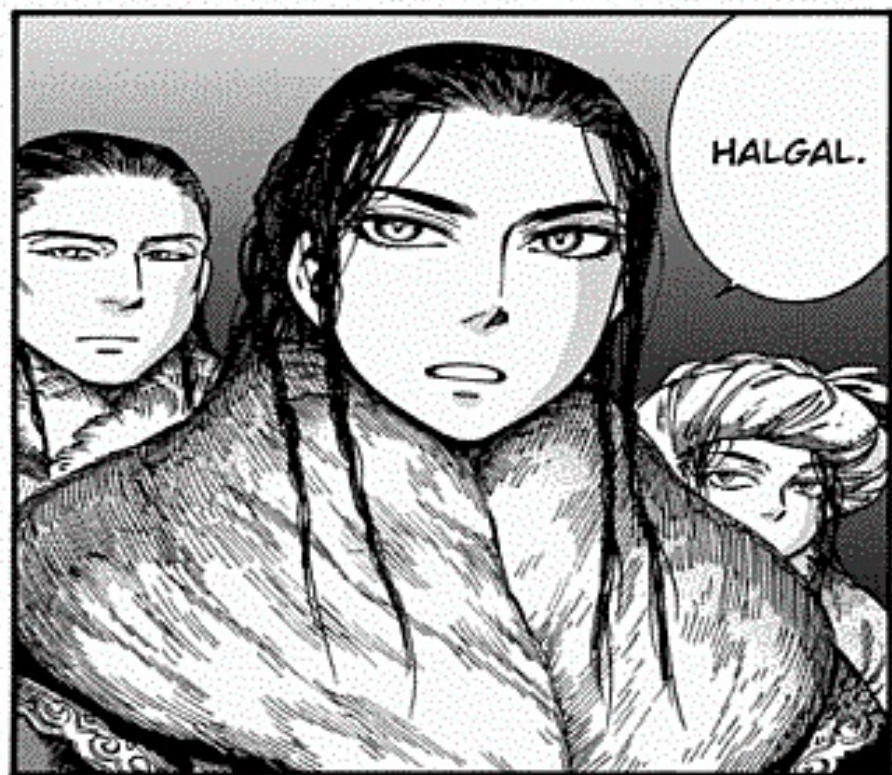
WELL...

...I GUESS
THE FACT
THAT WE
ARE ALIVE
IS ALREADY
LIKE A JOKE,
HUH?











SO
THAT'S
WHEN!

THAT
WAS
YEARS
AGO.



WE WERE
INVITED TO A
WEDDING, AND
THAT IS WHERE
I MET YOU.

YOU
WERE KIND
ENOUGH TO
SHOW US
YOUR
HORSE.



.....
SO YOU ARE
ACQUAINTED.



I
SEE...

...SO
YOU'RE
AZEL
OF THE
HALGAL.



IT SEEMS
THAT RUSSIA
IS SERIOUS
THIS TIME.



YOU
HAVE
MY
GRATI-
TITUDE.

THEN I
SINCERELY
WELCOME
YOU ALL.



AND YOU
SHOULD
KNOW THE
REASON
WE'VE
GATHERED.
TO TALK
ABOUT
RUSSIA.







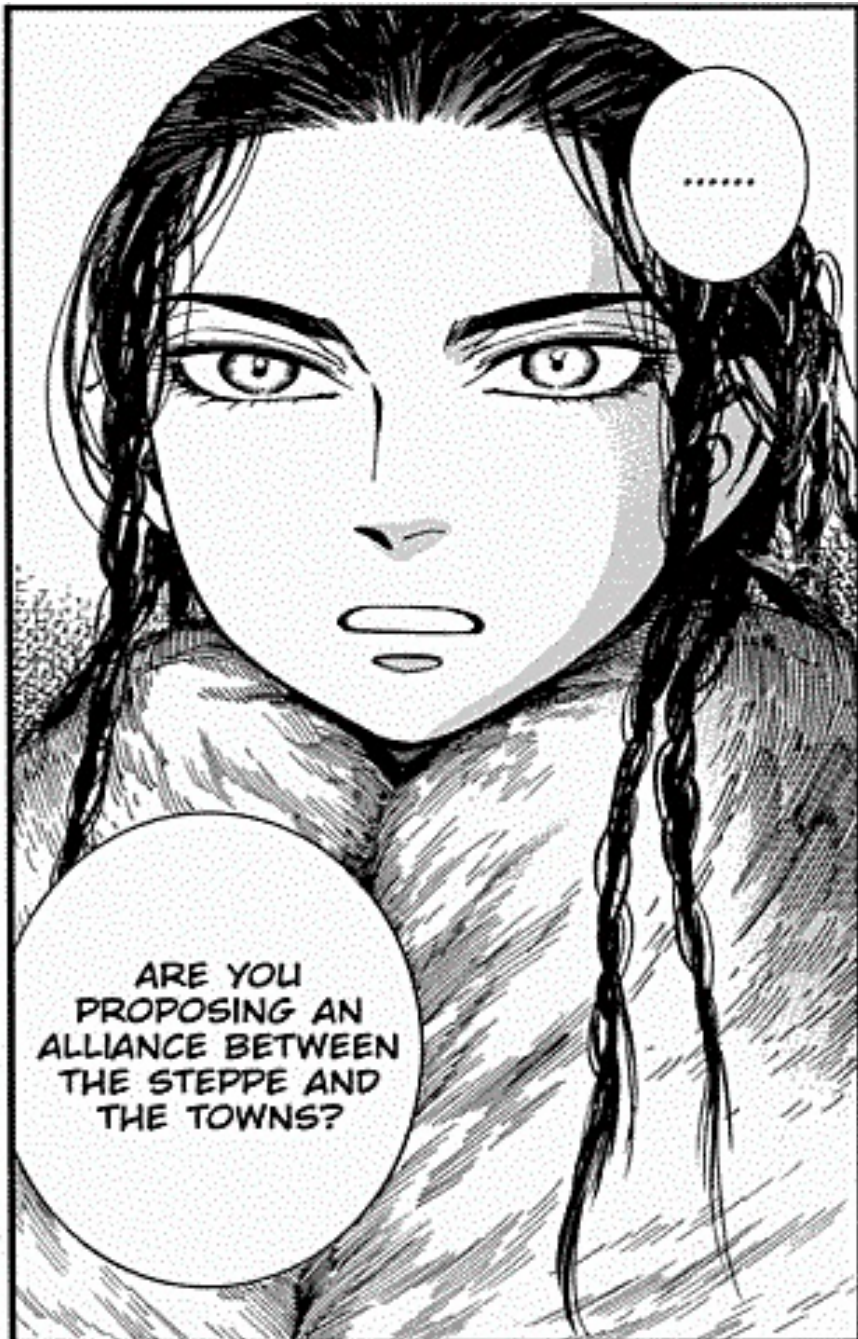




YES.

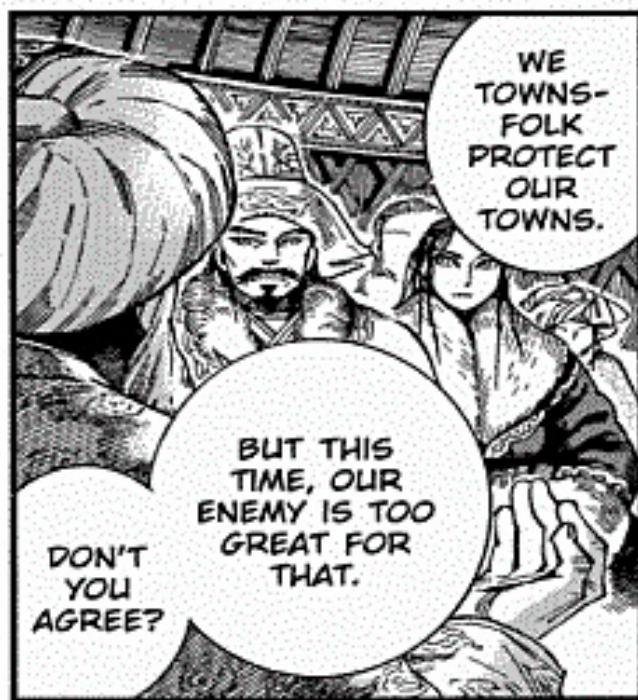
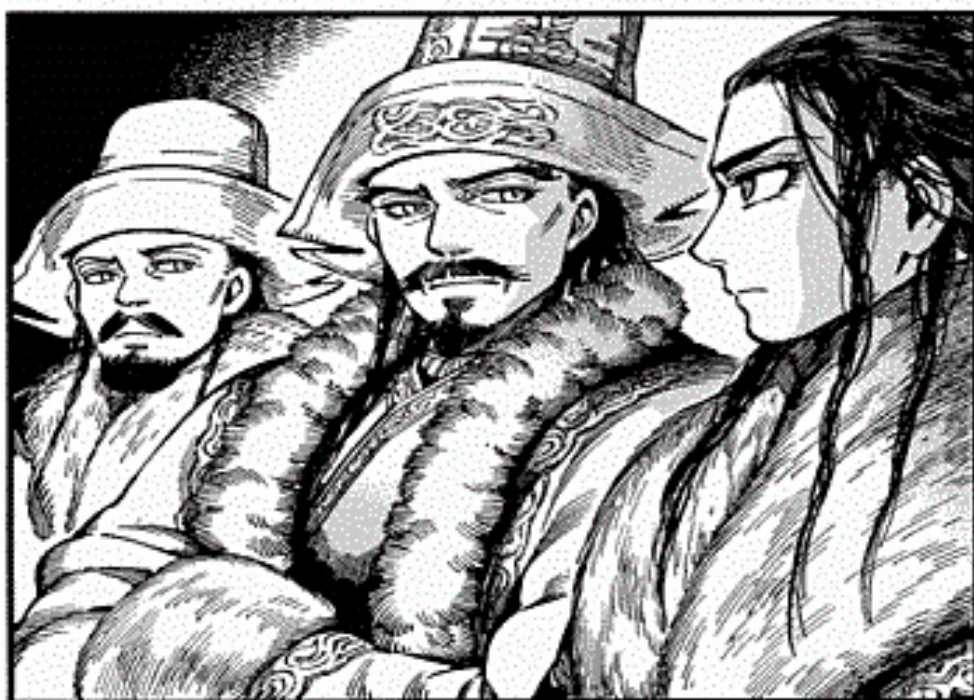
ONE
THAT IS
STRONG...

...AND
STEADFAST.



.....

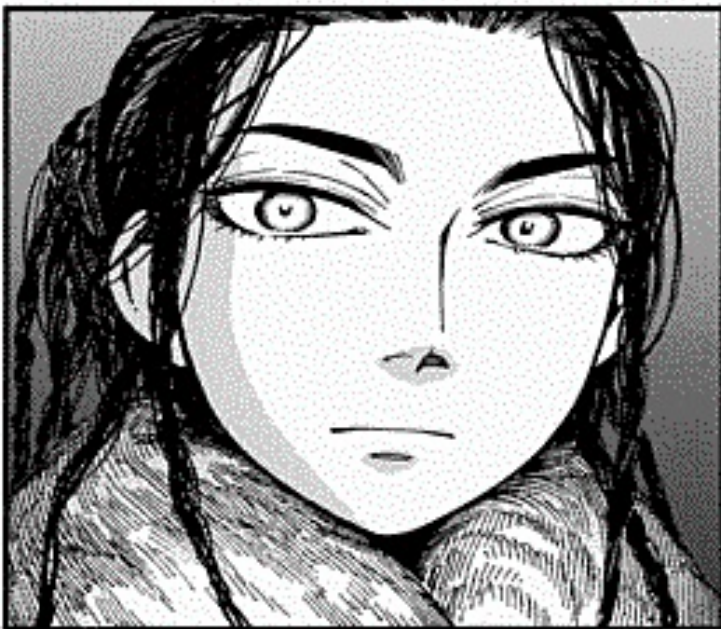
ARE YOU
PROPOSING AN
ALLIANCE BETWEEN
THE STEPPE AND
THE TOWNS?



WE
TOWNS-
FOLK
PROTECT
OUR
TOWNS.

BUT THIS
TIME, OUR
ENEMY IS TOO
GREAT FOR
THAT.

DON'T
YOU
AGREE?







IF YOU OF
THE STEPPE
CAN UNITE
INTO ONE
FORCE...

...THEN
WE CAN
PROVIDE
CERTAIN
GUARAN-
TEES.



MY
DAUGH-
TERS
ARE MY
TREA-
SURE.

I WOULD
NOT ALLOW
HARDSHIP TO
FALL ON THEM
FOR THEIR
FATHER'S
CONVENIENCE.

IF YOU
HAVE
CHILDREN,
I'M SURE
YOU
UNDER-
STAND.





...AND
GRANT YOU
FREEDOM TO
ENTER AND
EXIT THE
TOWNS.

WE CAN GIVE
PREFERENTIAL
STATUS TO
THE PELTS
AND MEAT YOU
SUPPLY...

THAT SHOULD
PROVIDE HIGH
REVENUE FOR
BOTH PARTIES.



BECAUSE
WE WANT
ASSURANCE!



WHY
WOULD
YOU GO
SO FAR?



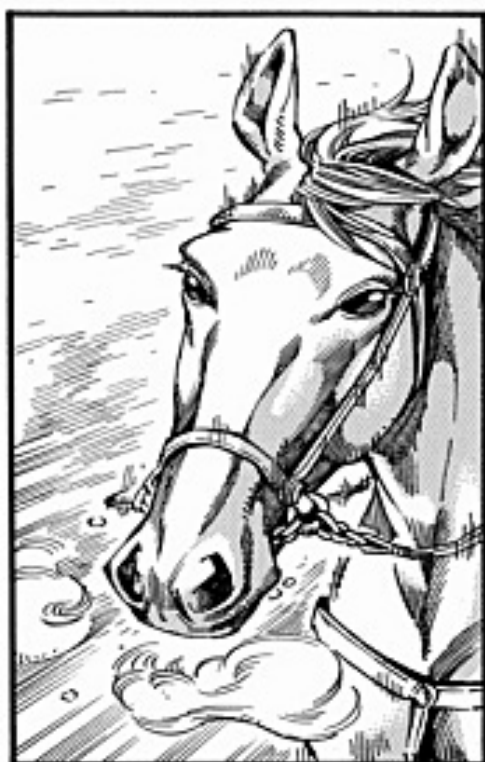
WOULD
YOU AT
LEAST
CONSIDER
IT?



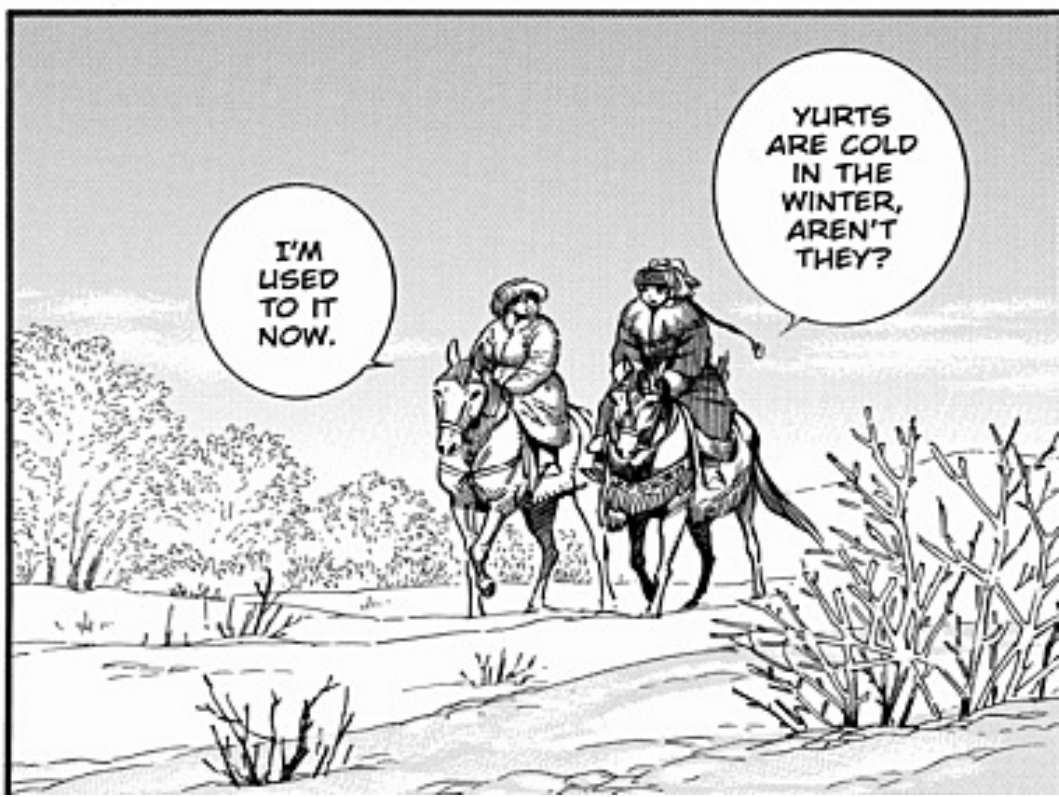
WE STAND
BEFORE AN
ENORMOUS
ENEMY.

WE NEED THE
ASSURANCE
THAT WE WILL
ALL STAND
AGAINST THEM
WITHOUT
RETREATING OR
FRACTURING.

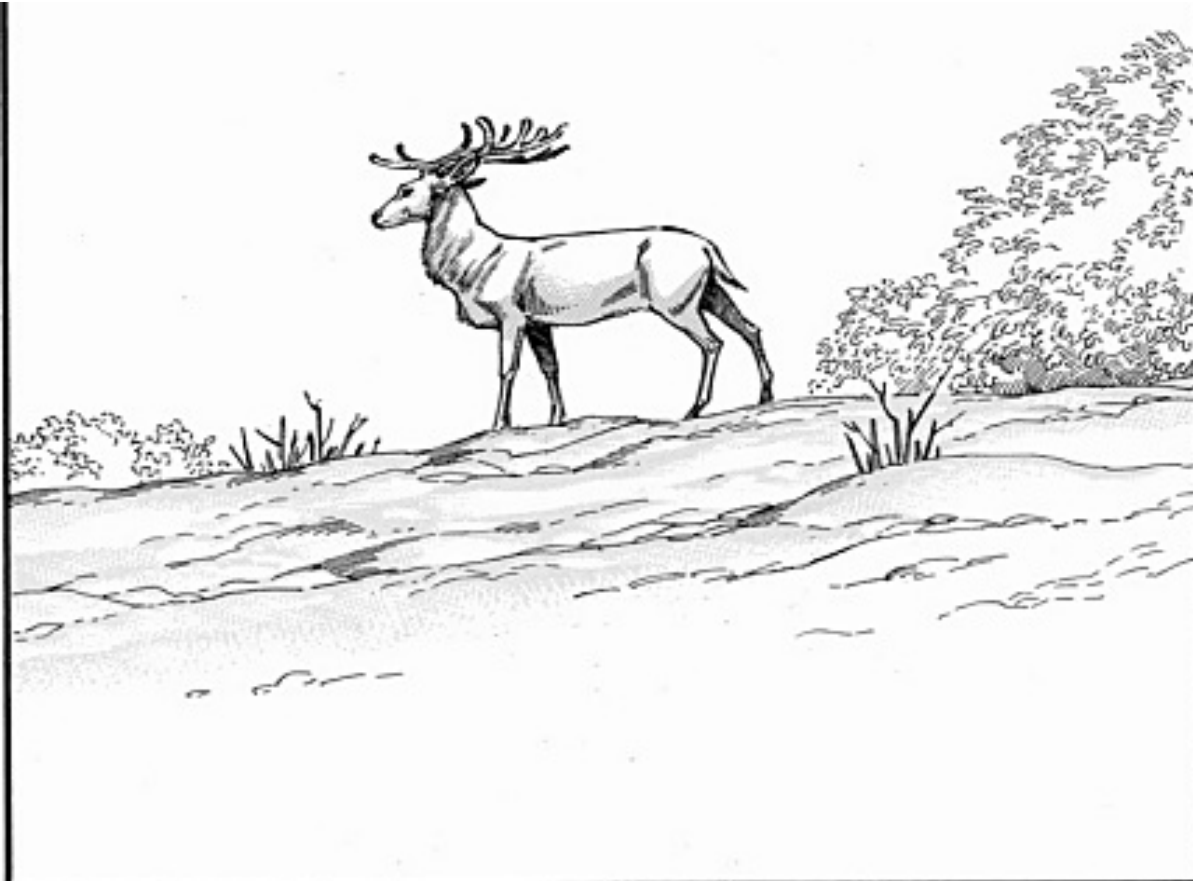


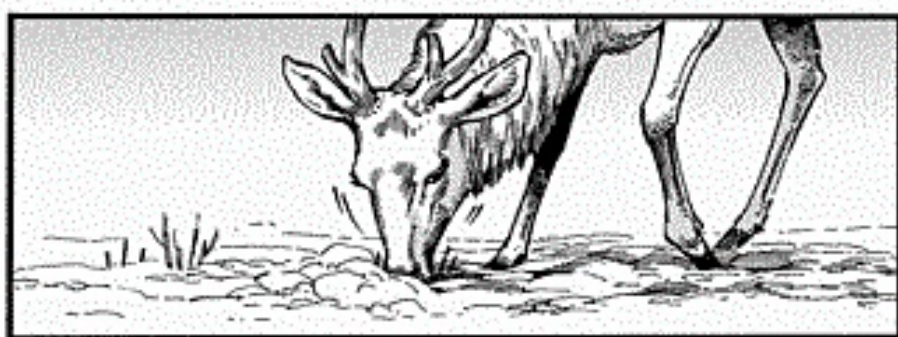
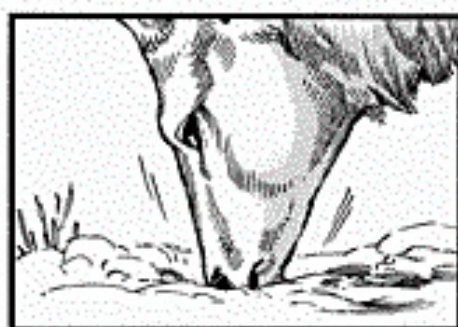




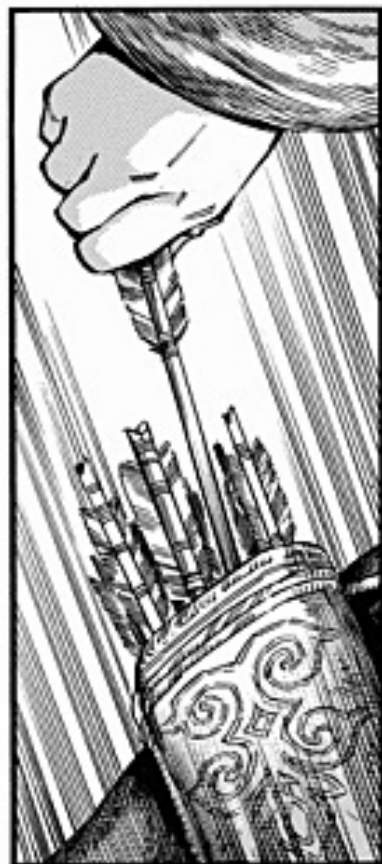






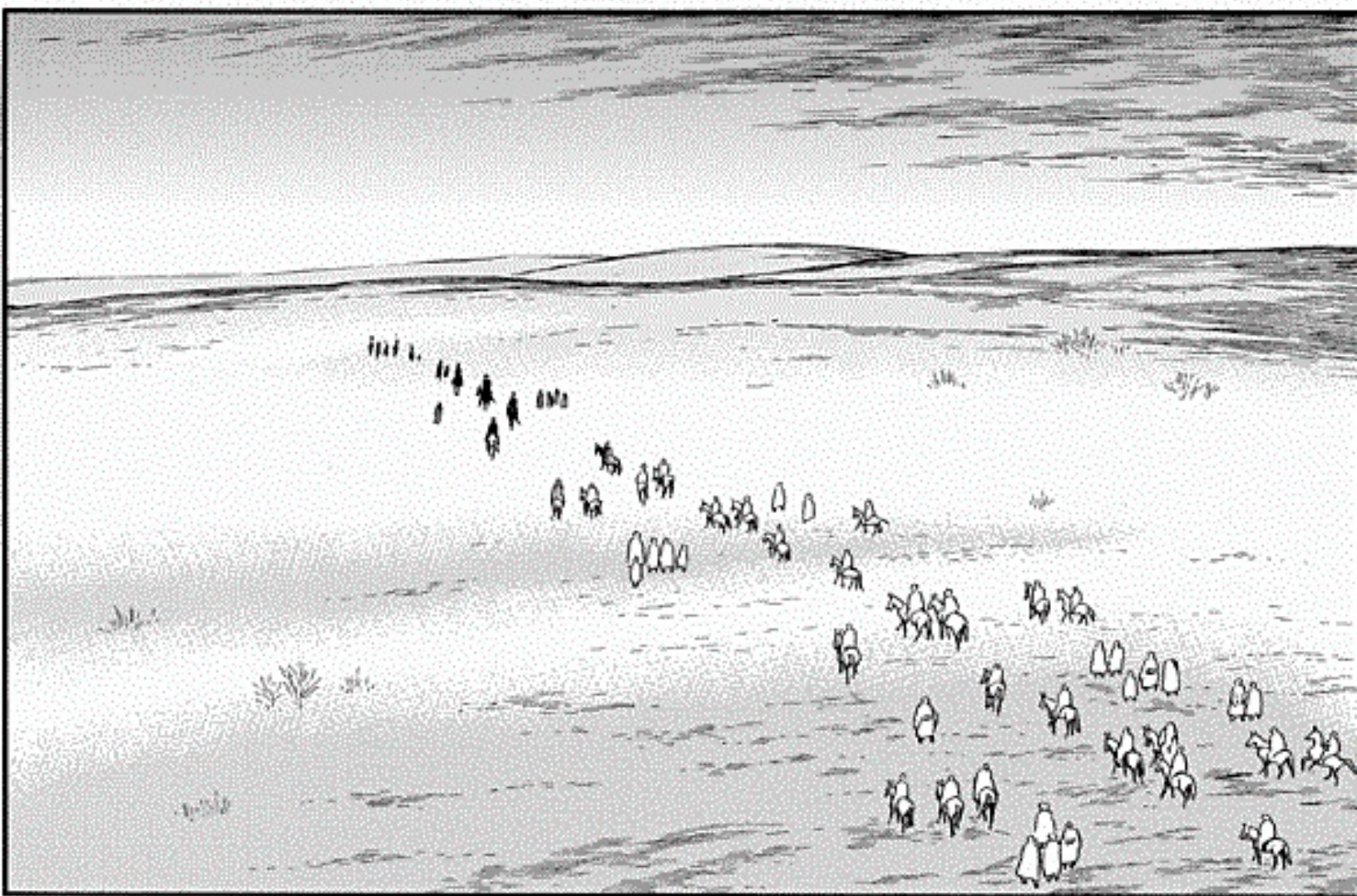
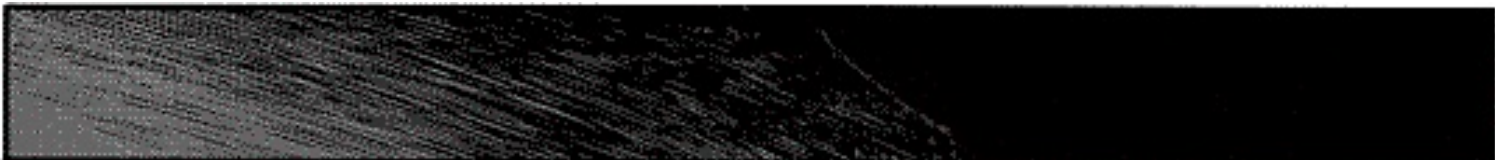


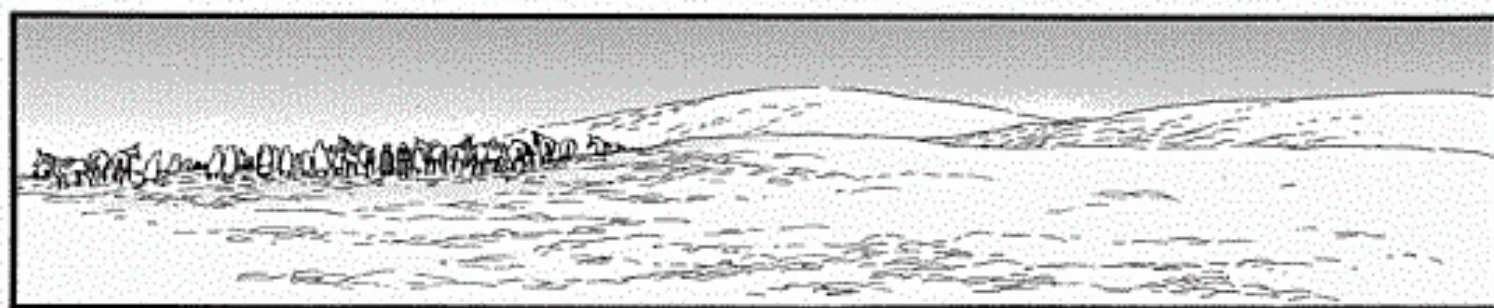


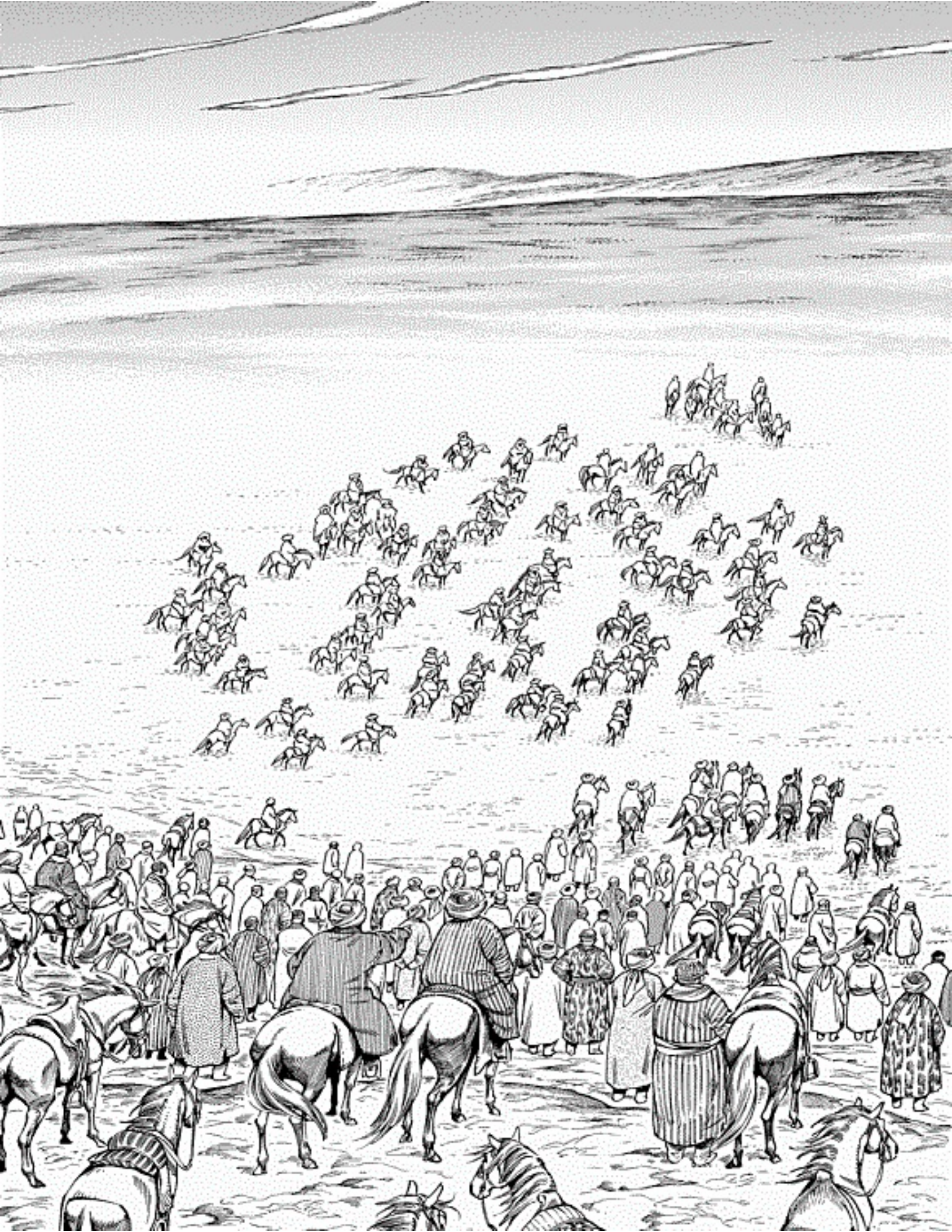




















WE HAVE
GATHERED HERE
TODAY TO BEAR
WITNESS AS THE
FOLK OF THE
STEPPE UNITE
THEIR CLANS
THROUGH THE
TIES OF
BLOOD.

WE ARE
HERE AS
MEDIATORS
AND
WITNESSES.



HERE
AND NOW,
WE STAND
AT THE
STARTING
POINT
OF THAT
ALLIANCE.

IT IS
NECESSARY
FOR THE
PEOPLE OF
THE STEPPE
AND THE TOWN
TO UNITE
AGAINST THEM
TOGETHER.



BUT
EVEN
SO...

...I CANNOT
GUARANTEE
AN
ENGAGEMENT.



IT'S
TRUE.



AS YOU
ALL MAY
HAVE HEARD,
THE THREAT
FROM RUSSIA
DRAWS
CLOSER AND
CLOSER.

THEY
ARE NOT
AN ENEMY
THAT WE
CAN EASILY
DEFEAT
ALONE.



THE WOMEN
OF THE STEPPE
WILL NOT
ACKNOWLEDGE
WEAK MEN.

SO WE MUST
DEMAND THOSE
WHO WISH
TO MARRY TO
PROVE THEIR
WORTHINESS.



THIS
IS MORE
THAN
WE COULD
HAVE
HOPED
FOR,
AZEL!



IF YOU CAN
DEFEAT OUR
WOMEN IN A
CONTEST...

...I'LL
AGREE
TO A
MARRIAGE.

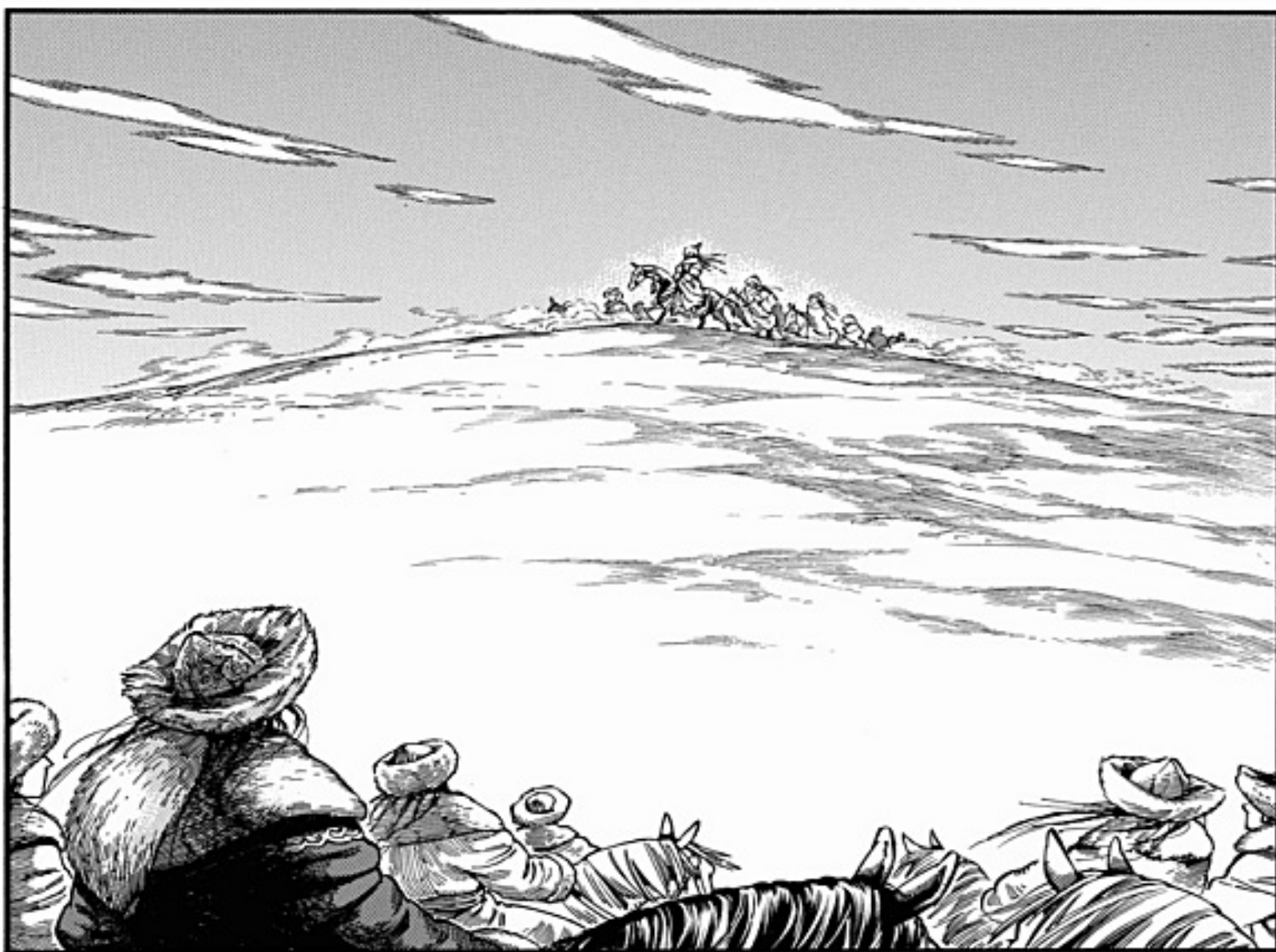


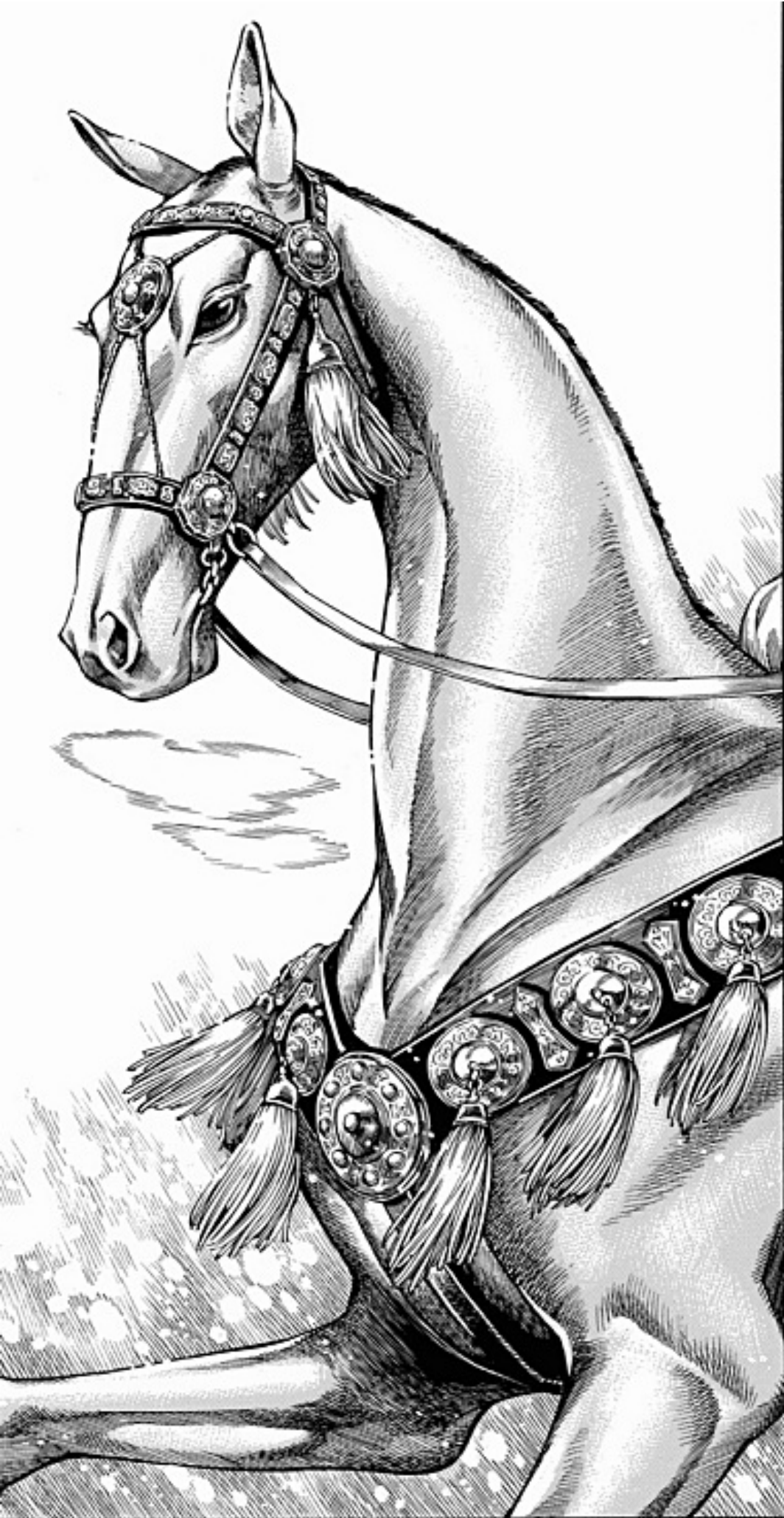
AZEL,
YOU MUST
WIN THIS
CONTEST!

THE
EXISTENCE
OF OUR
CLAN IS
RESTING ON
THIS.



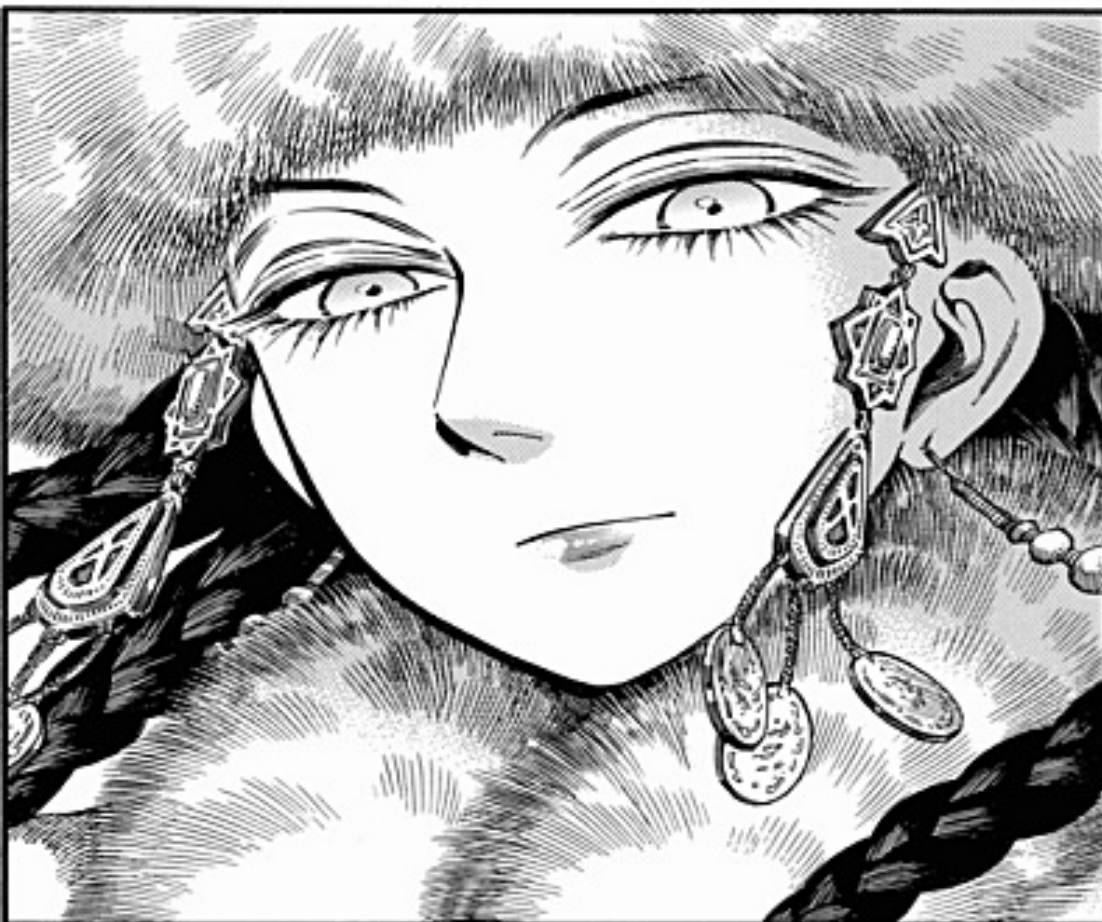




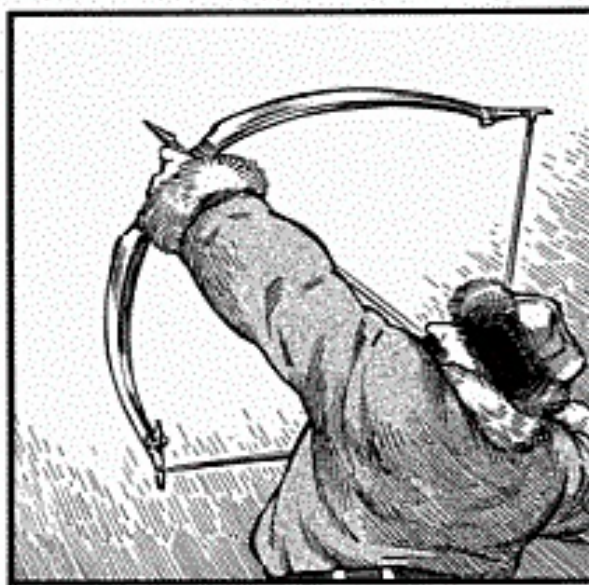
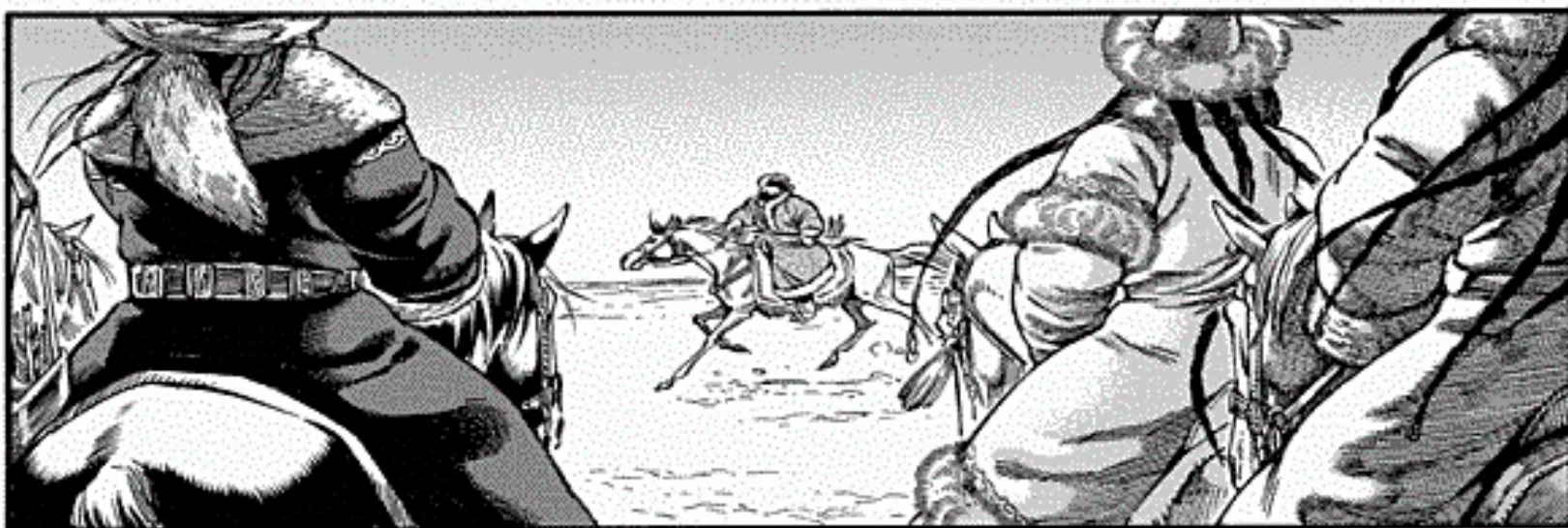
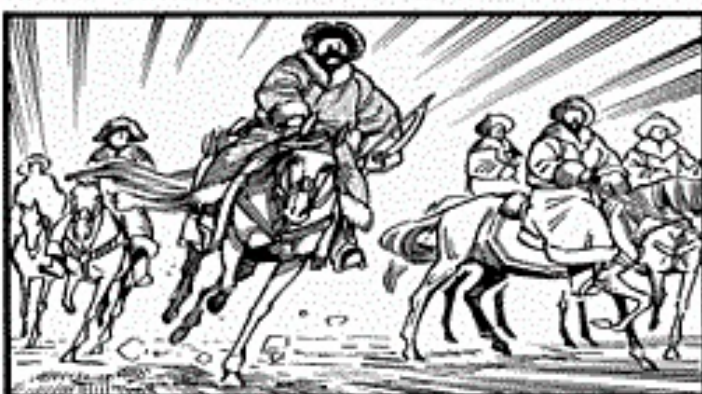
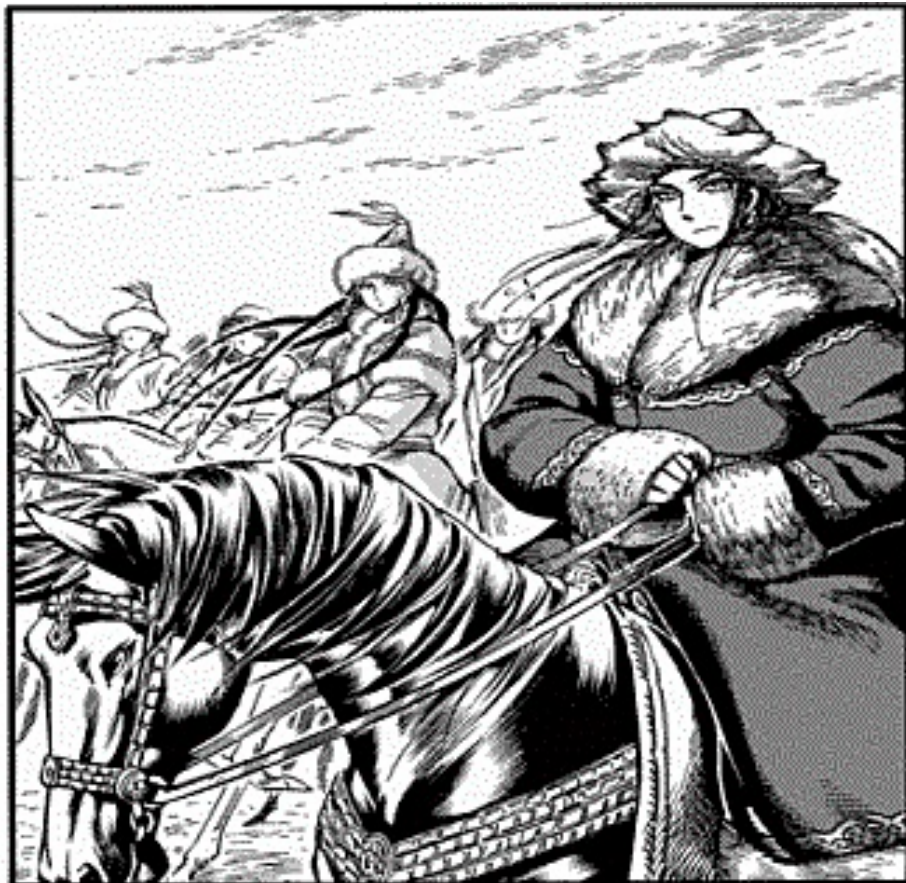


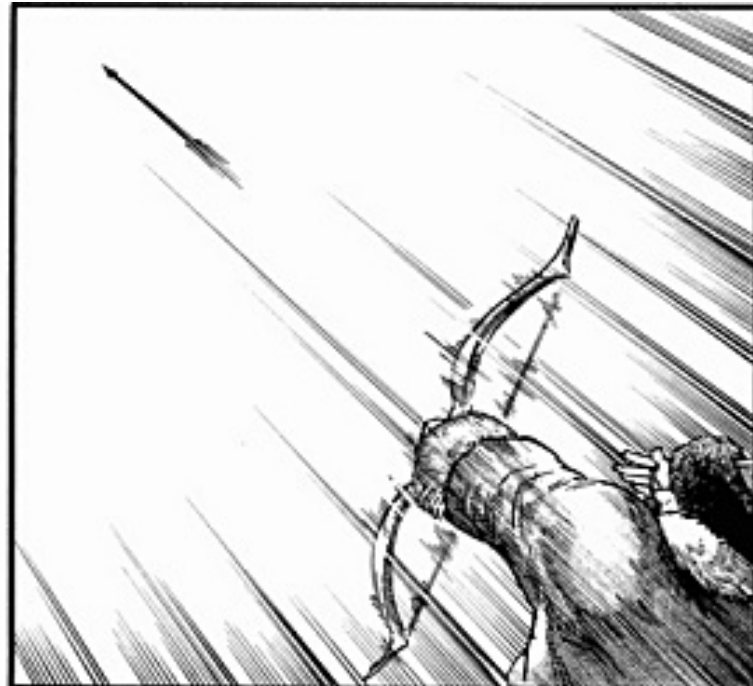






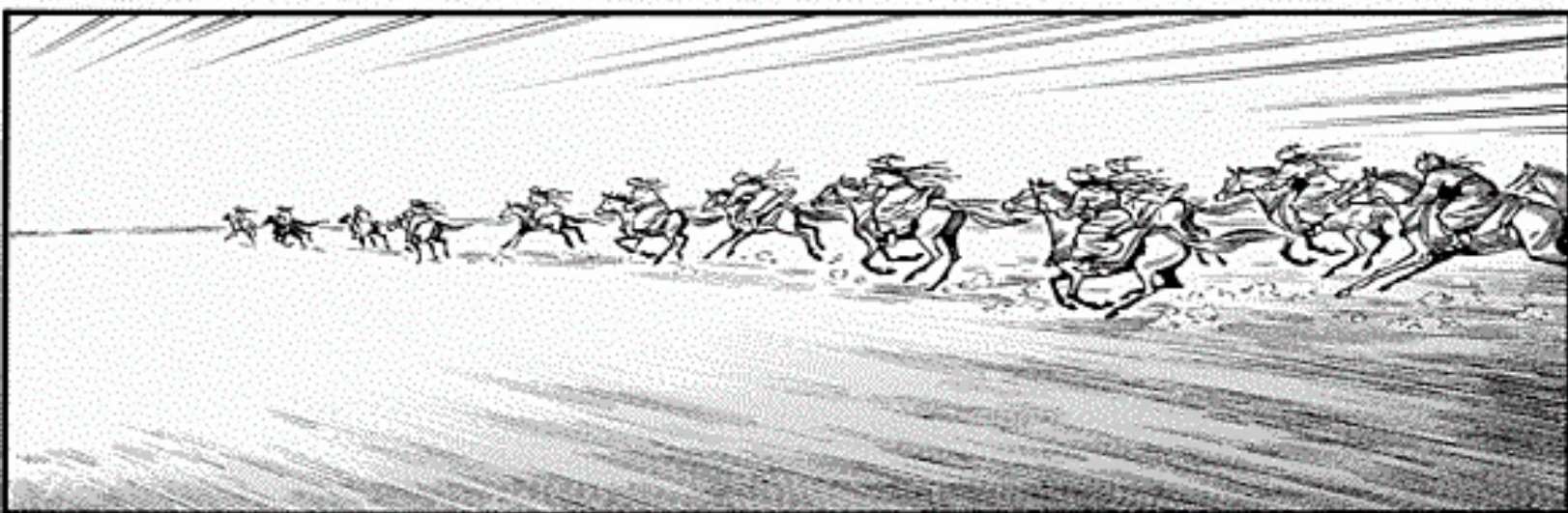
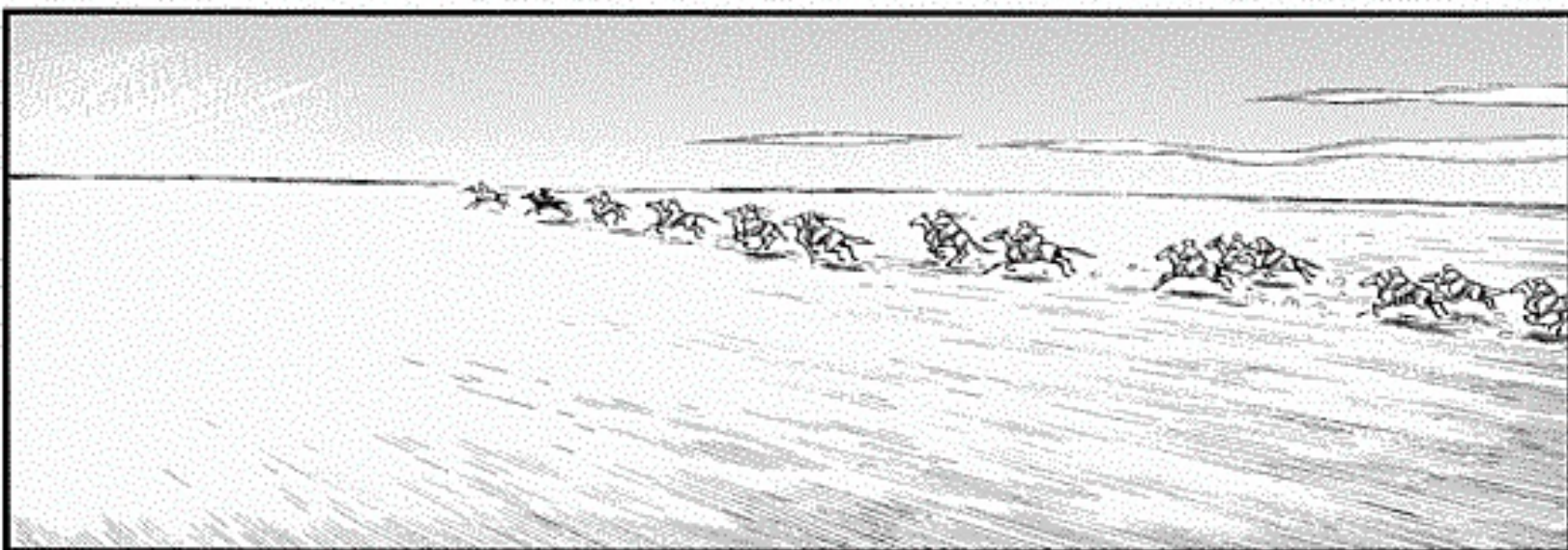


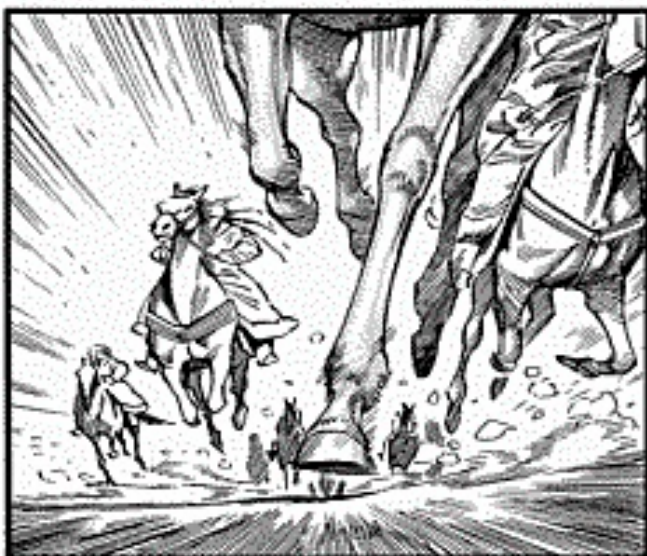
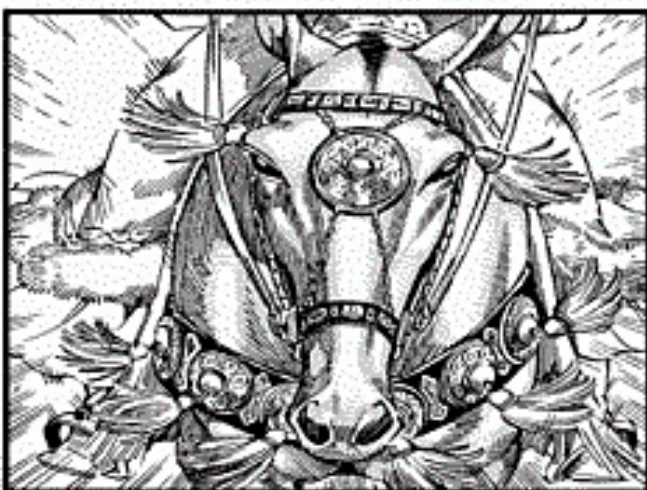


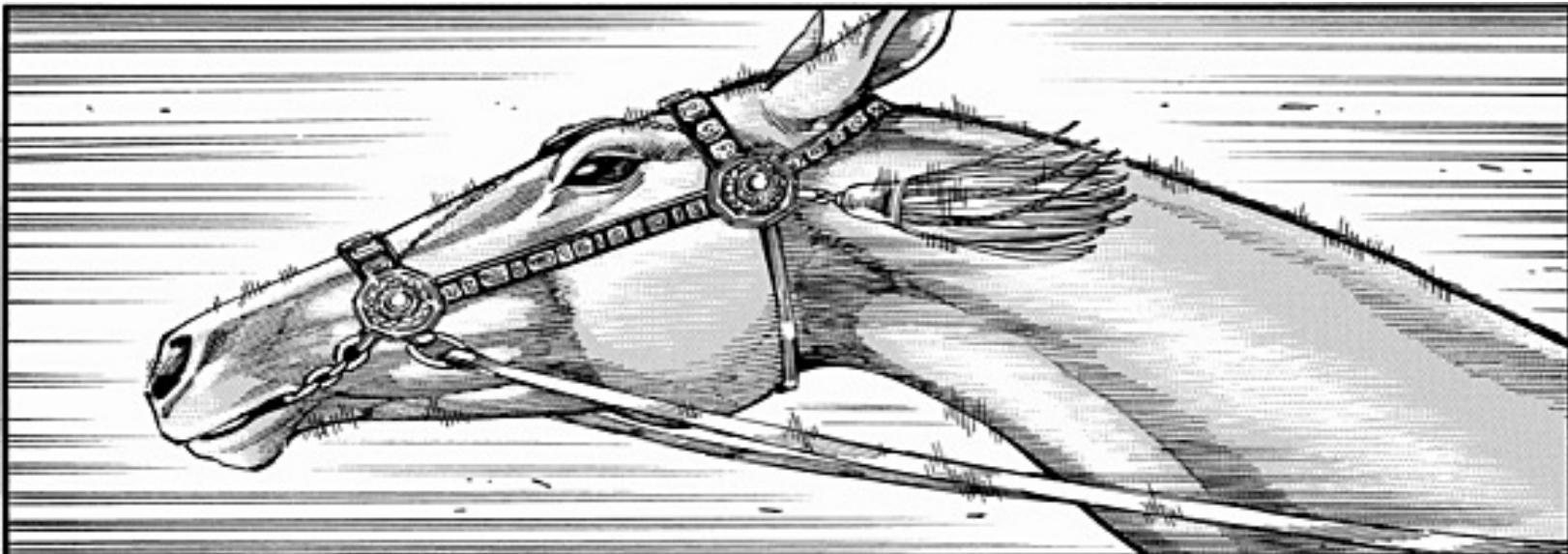


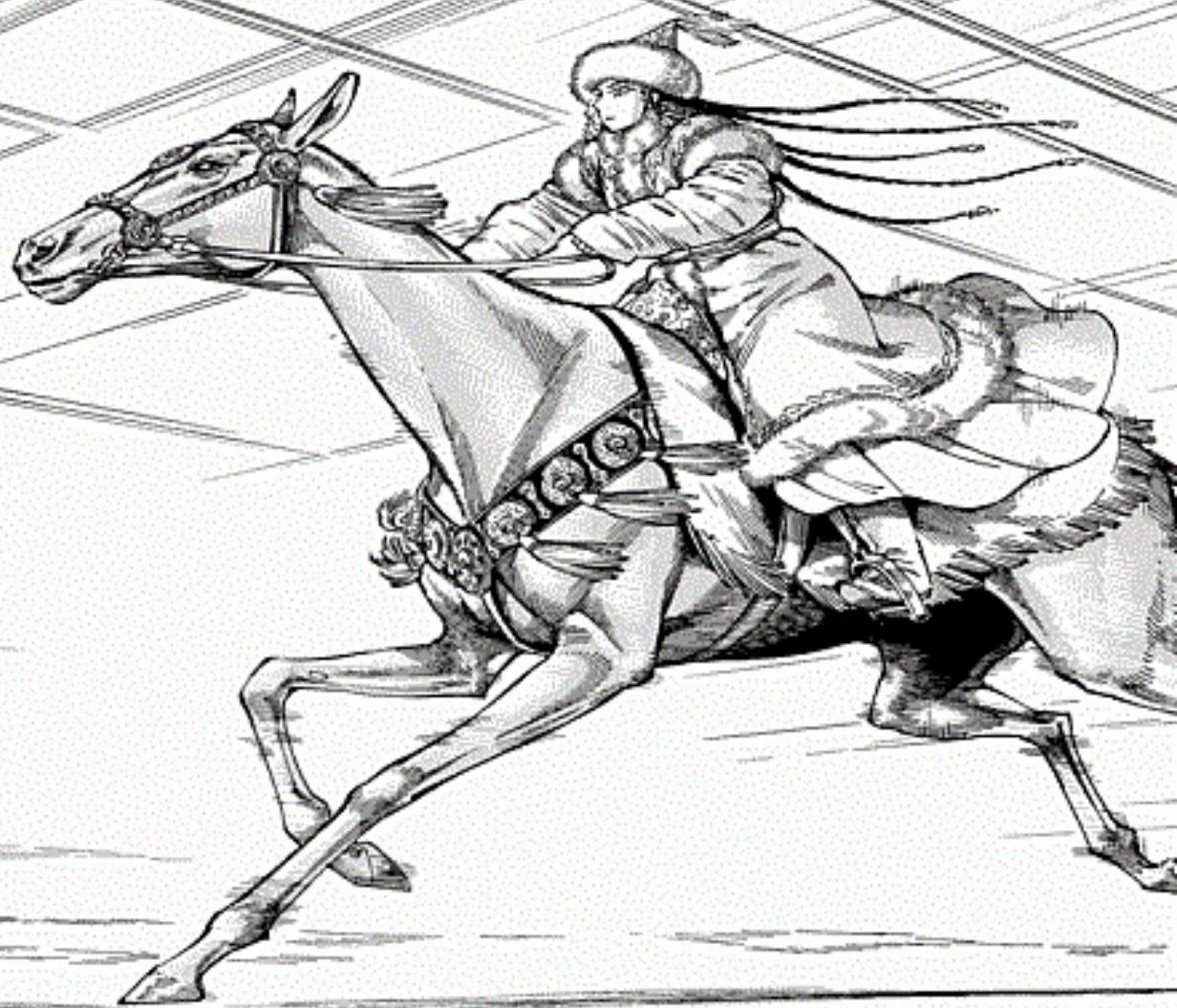




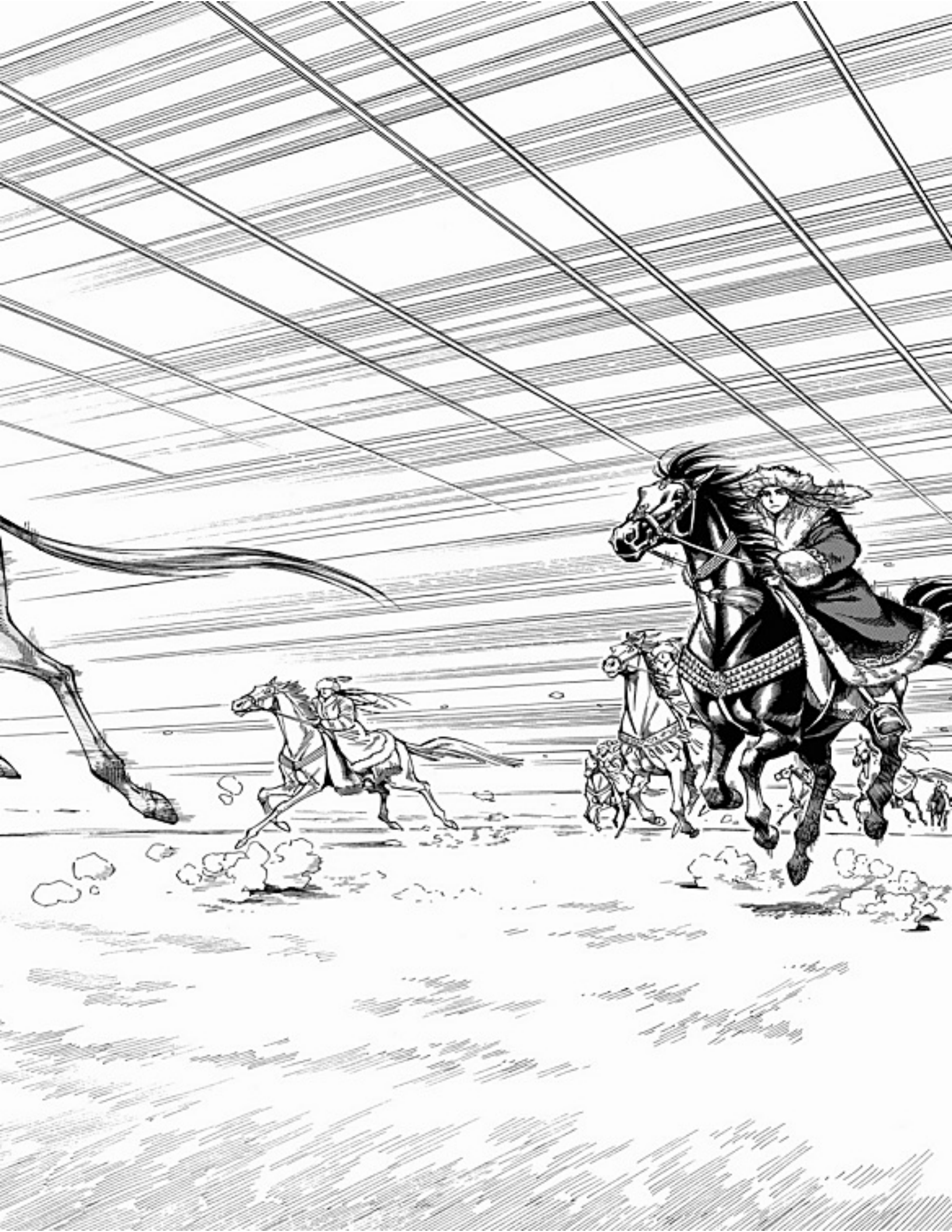


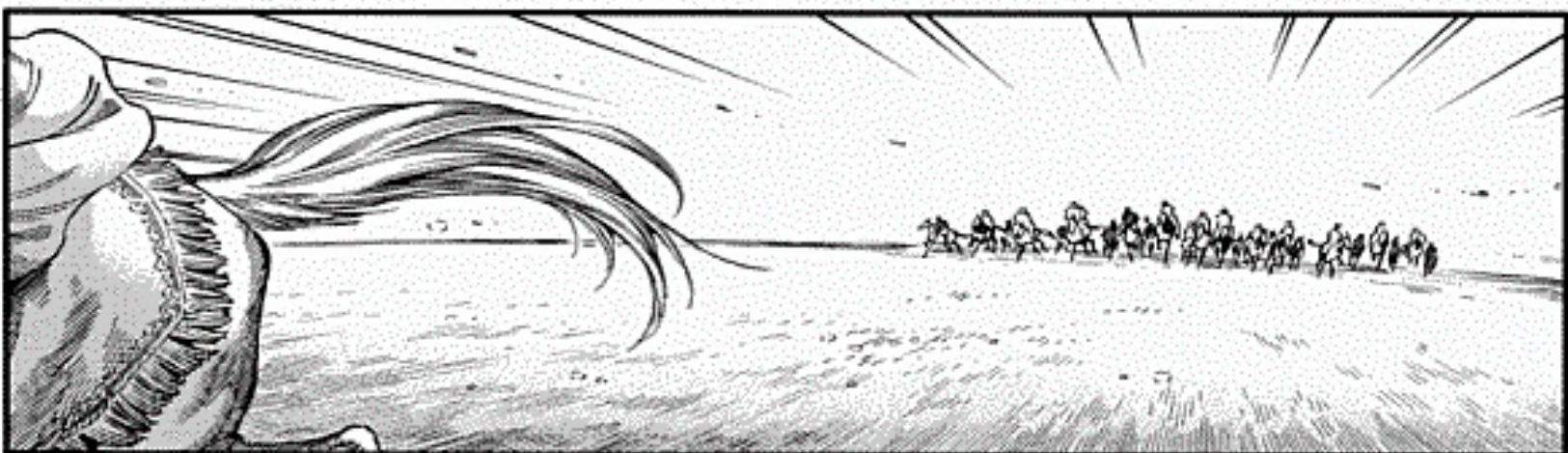
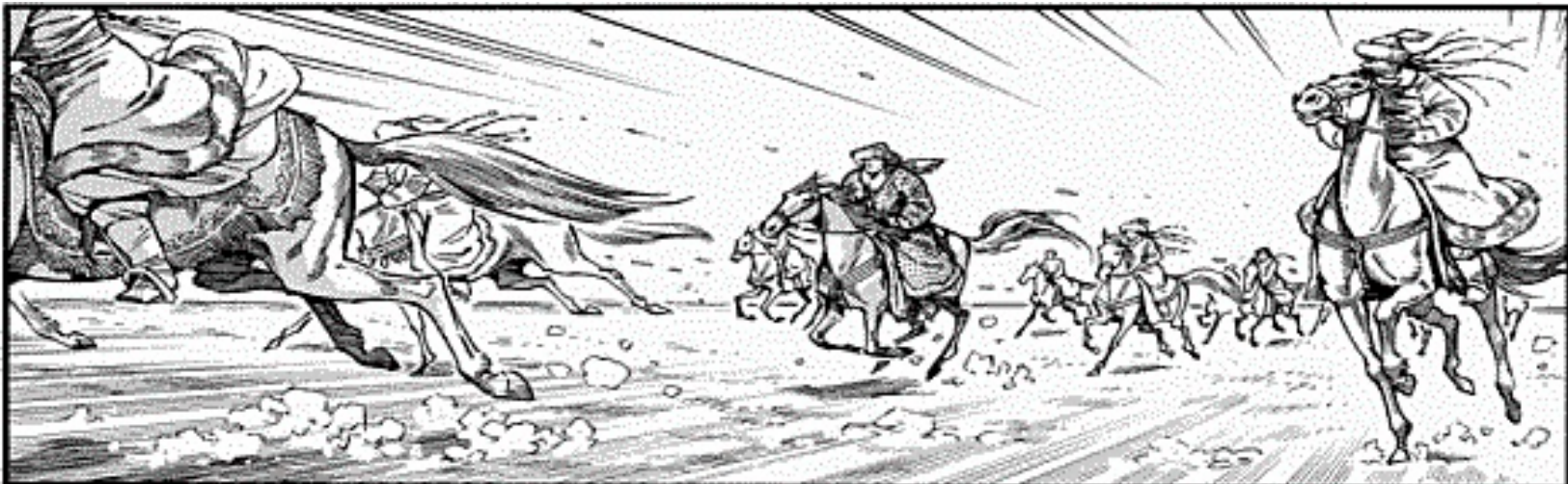




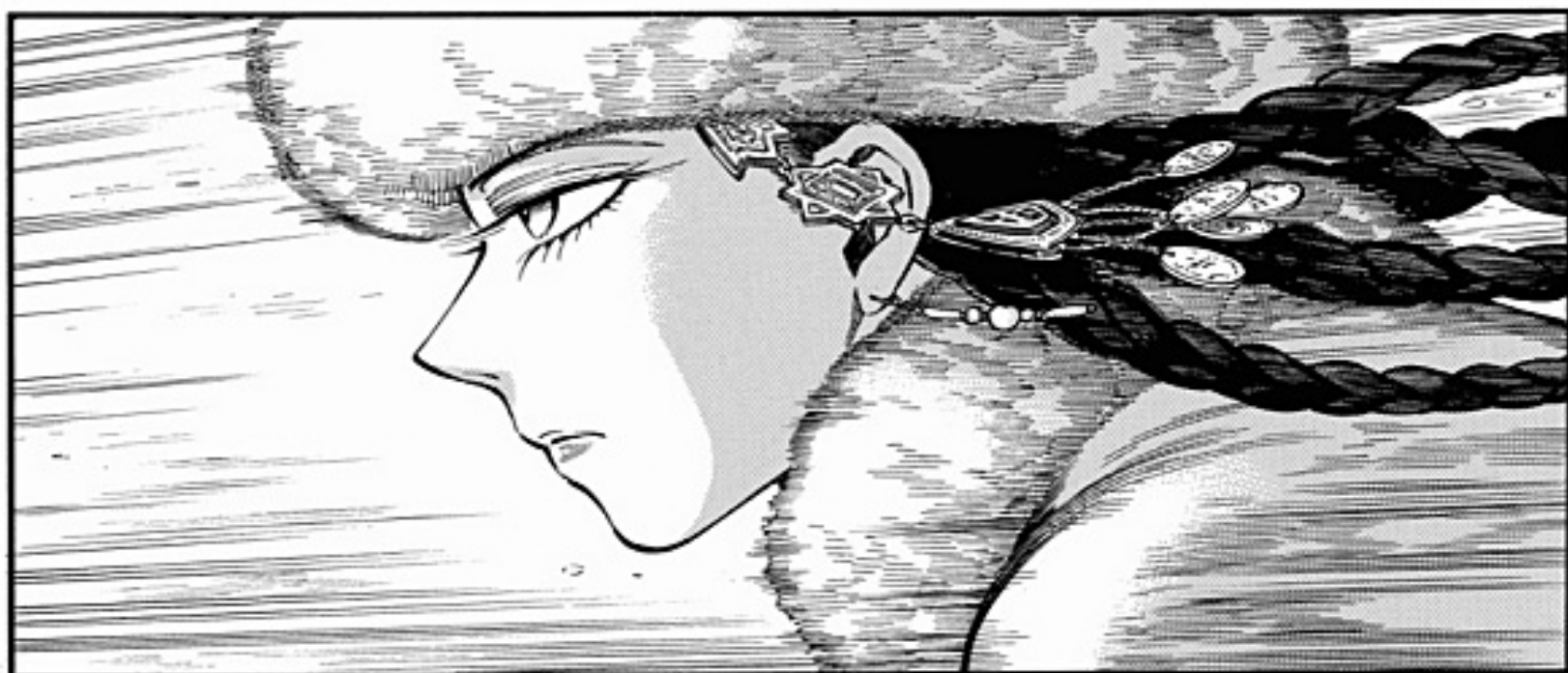


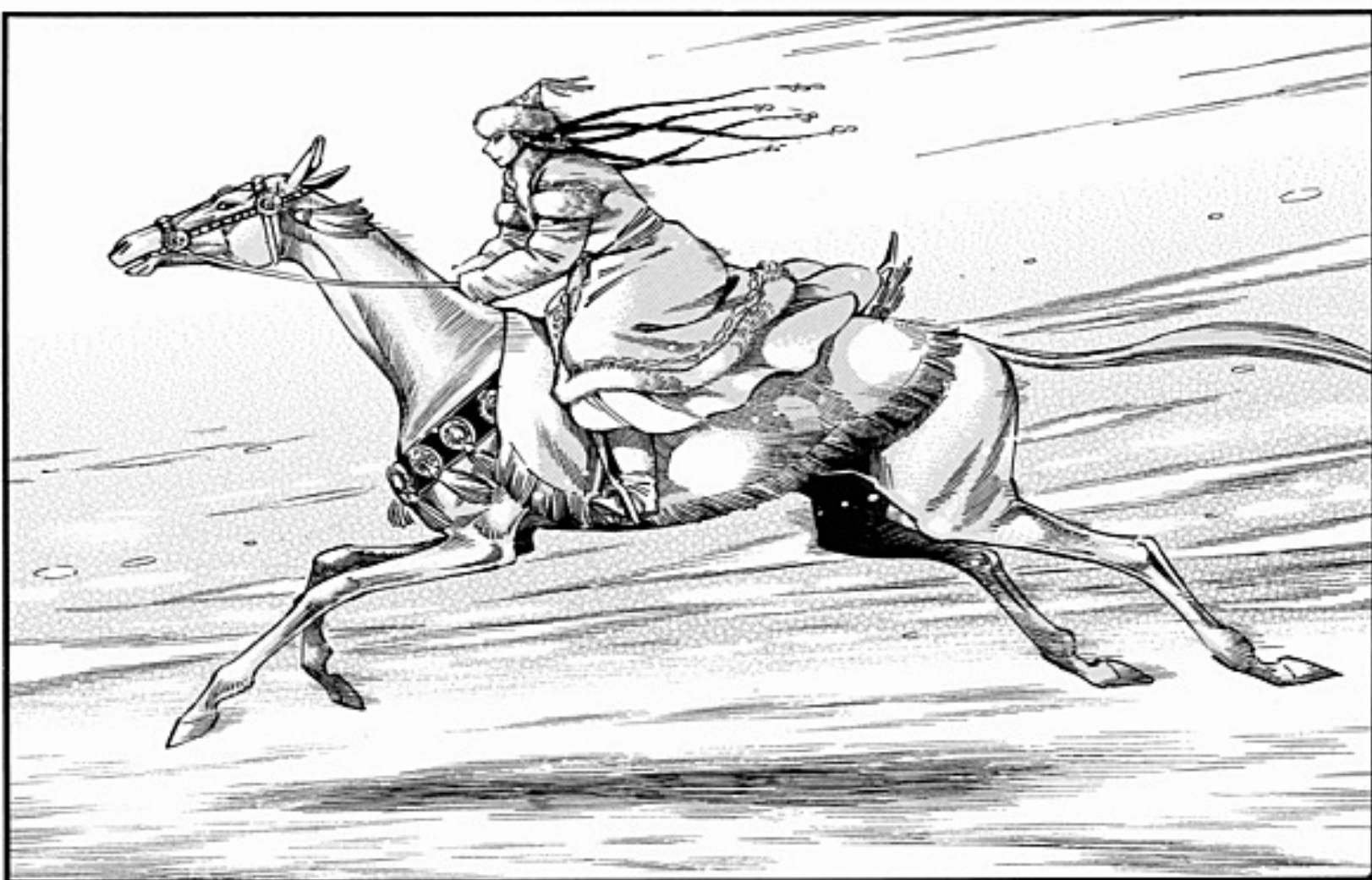
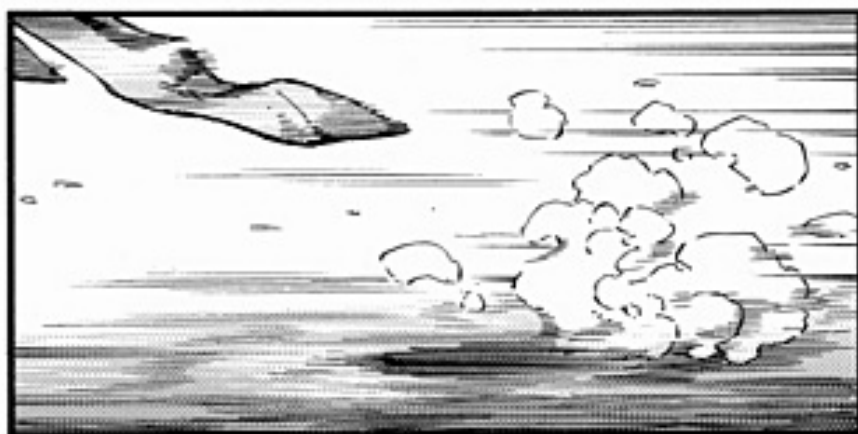
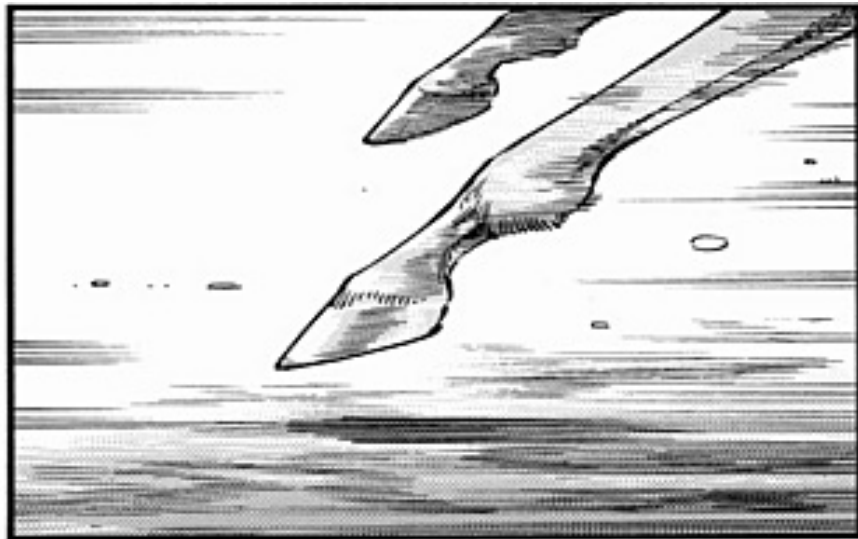
◆
CHAPTER 97
GOLDEN ICE
◆







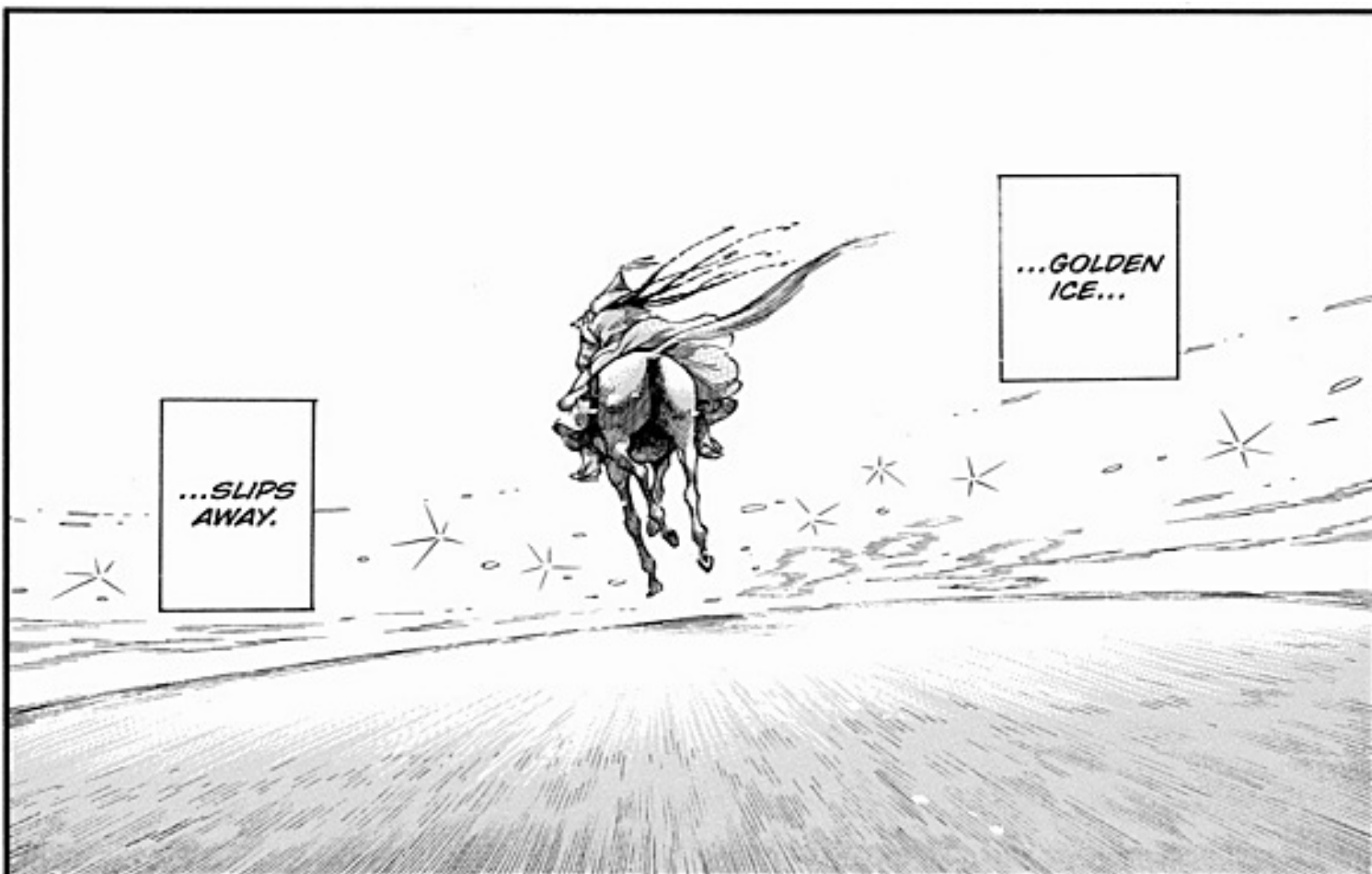




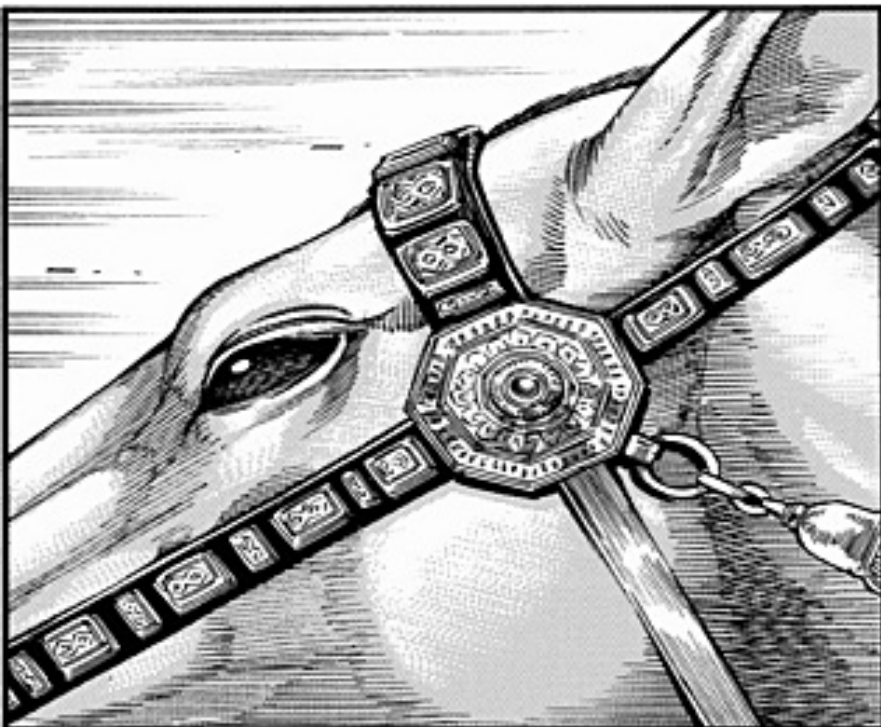


ON THE
SURFACE
OF THE
SNOW...





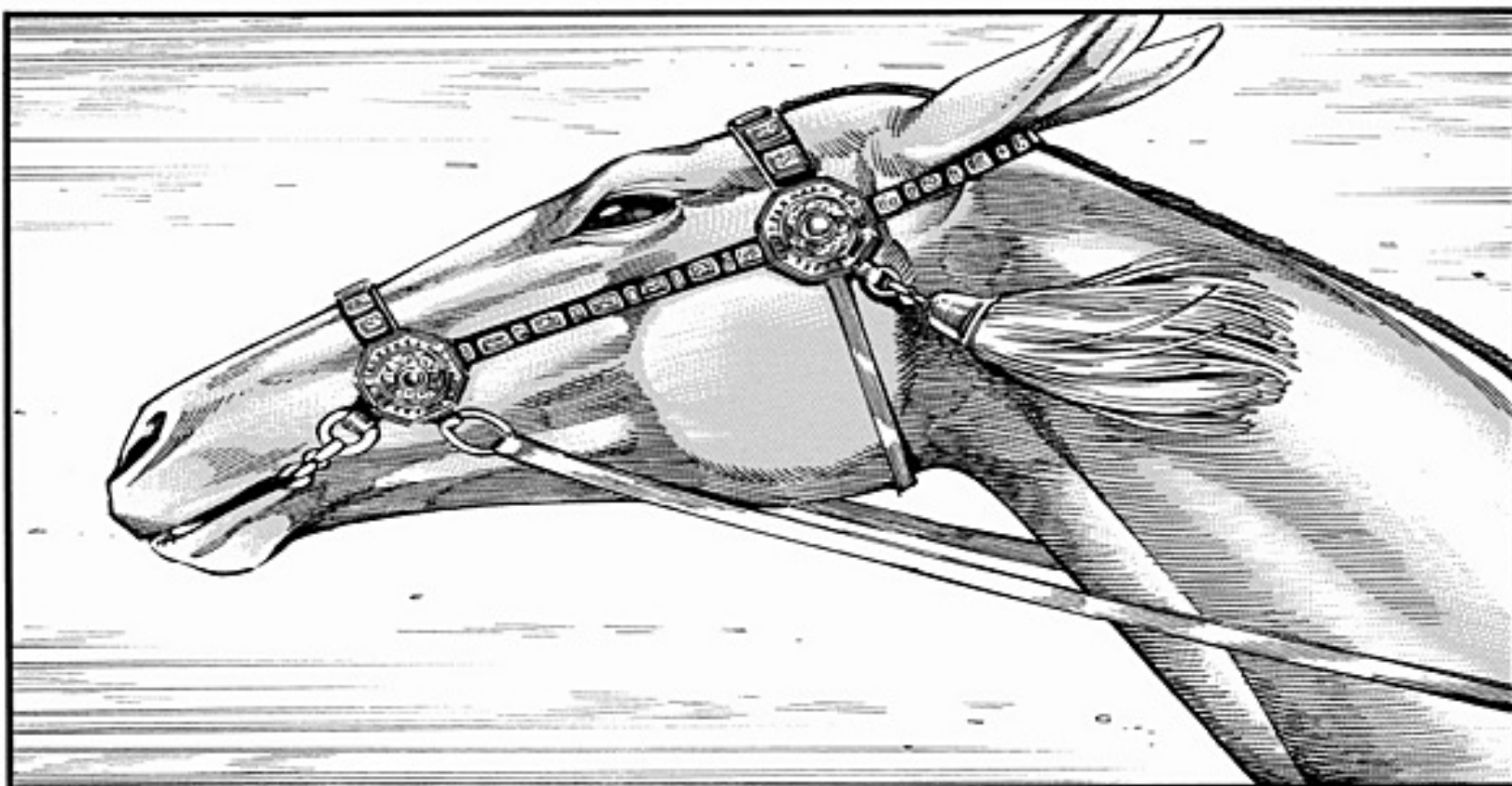




KAL-
KASHKA...



MY DEAR
KALKASHKA.



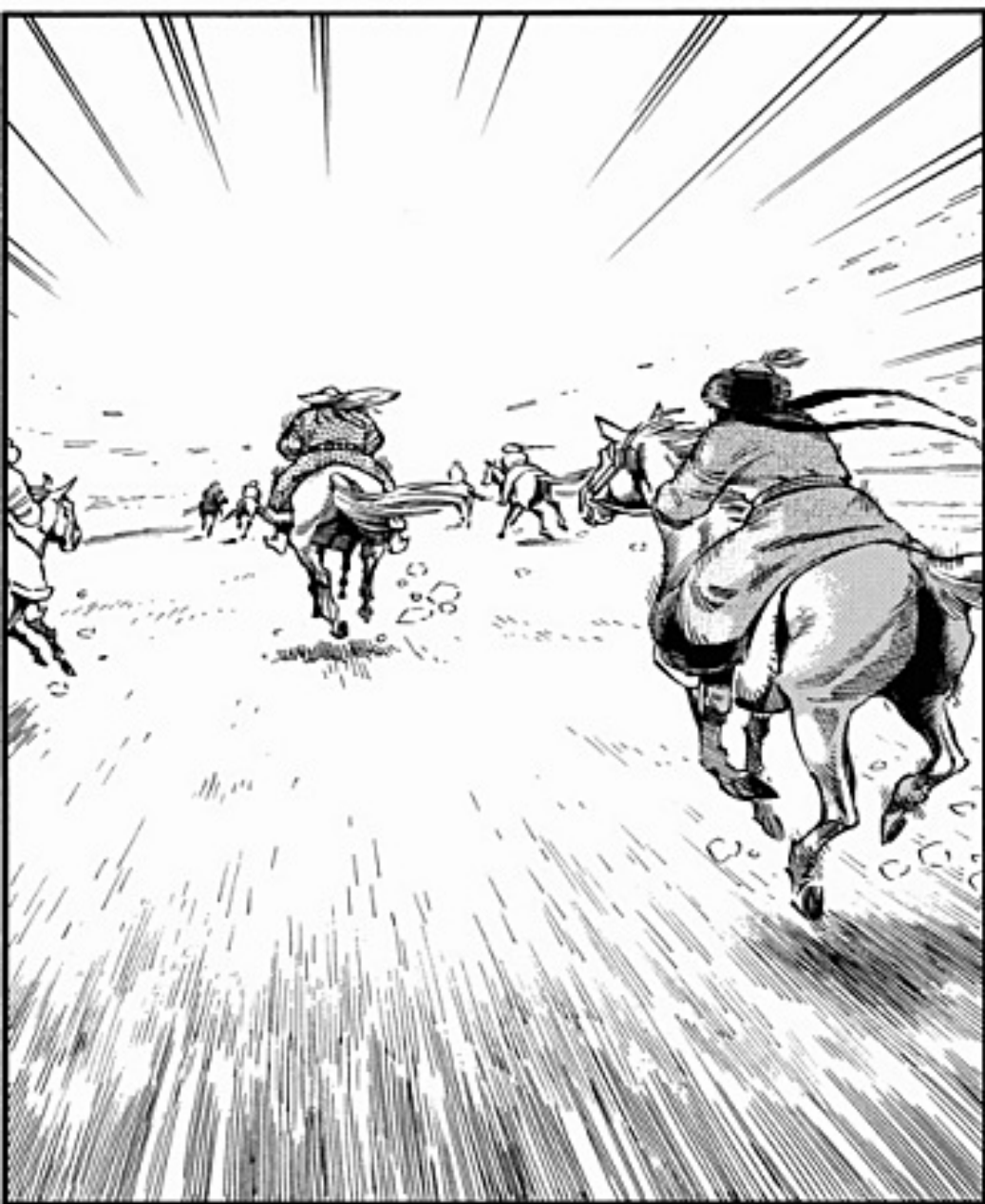




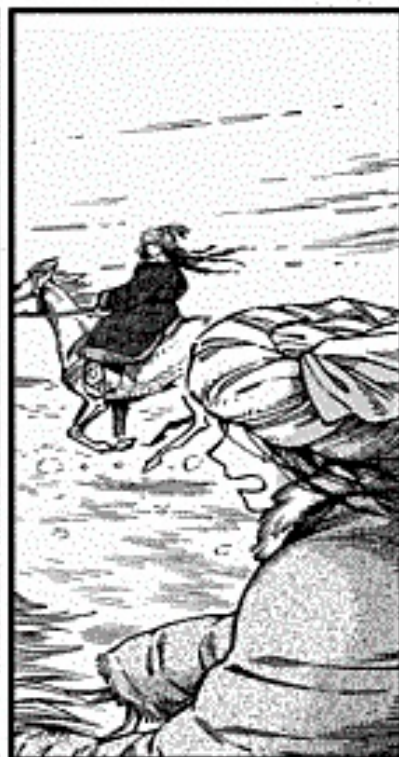










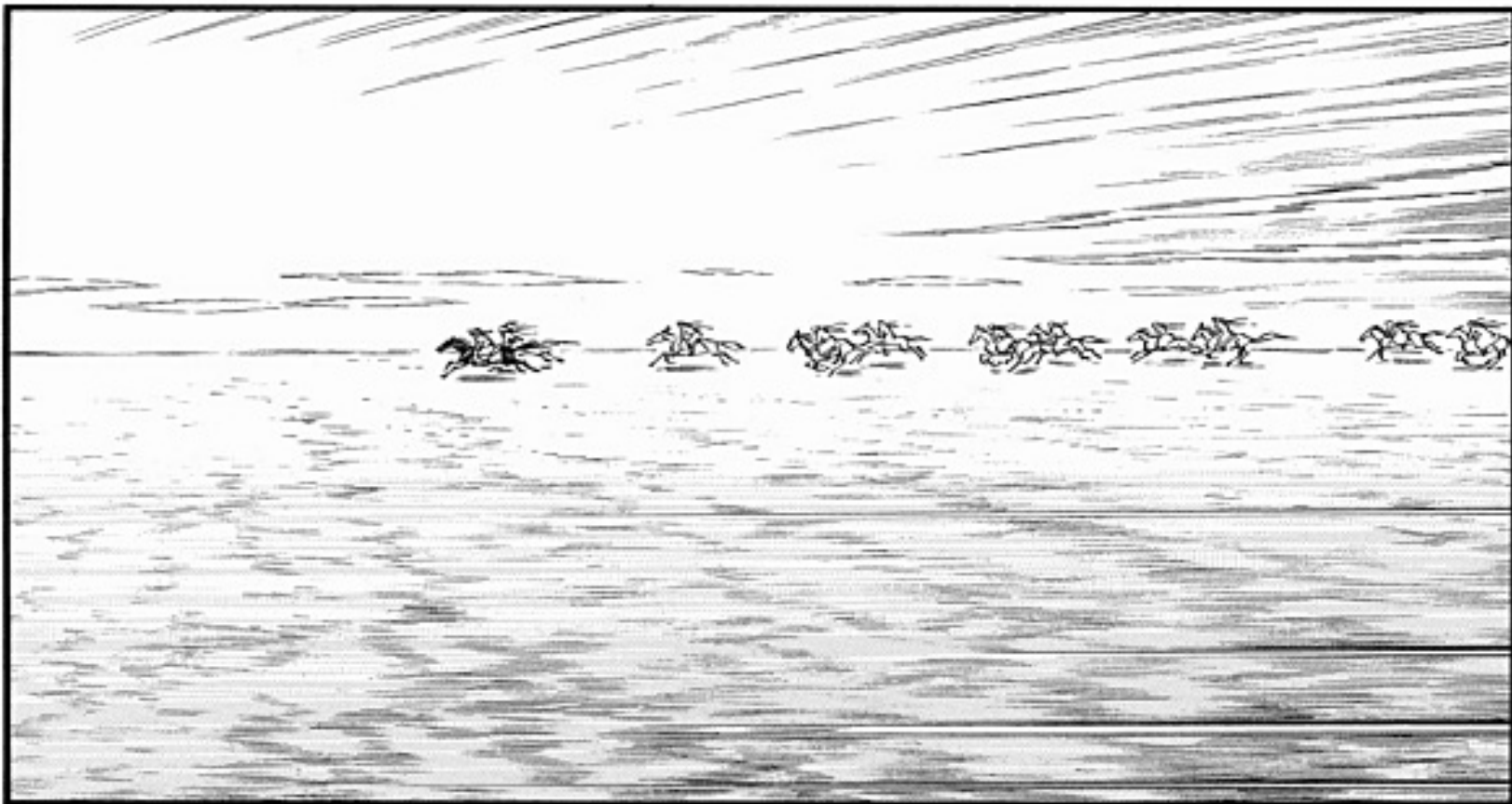










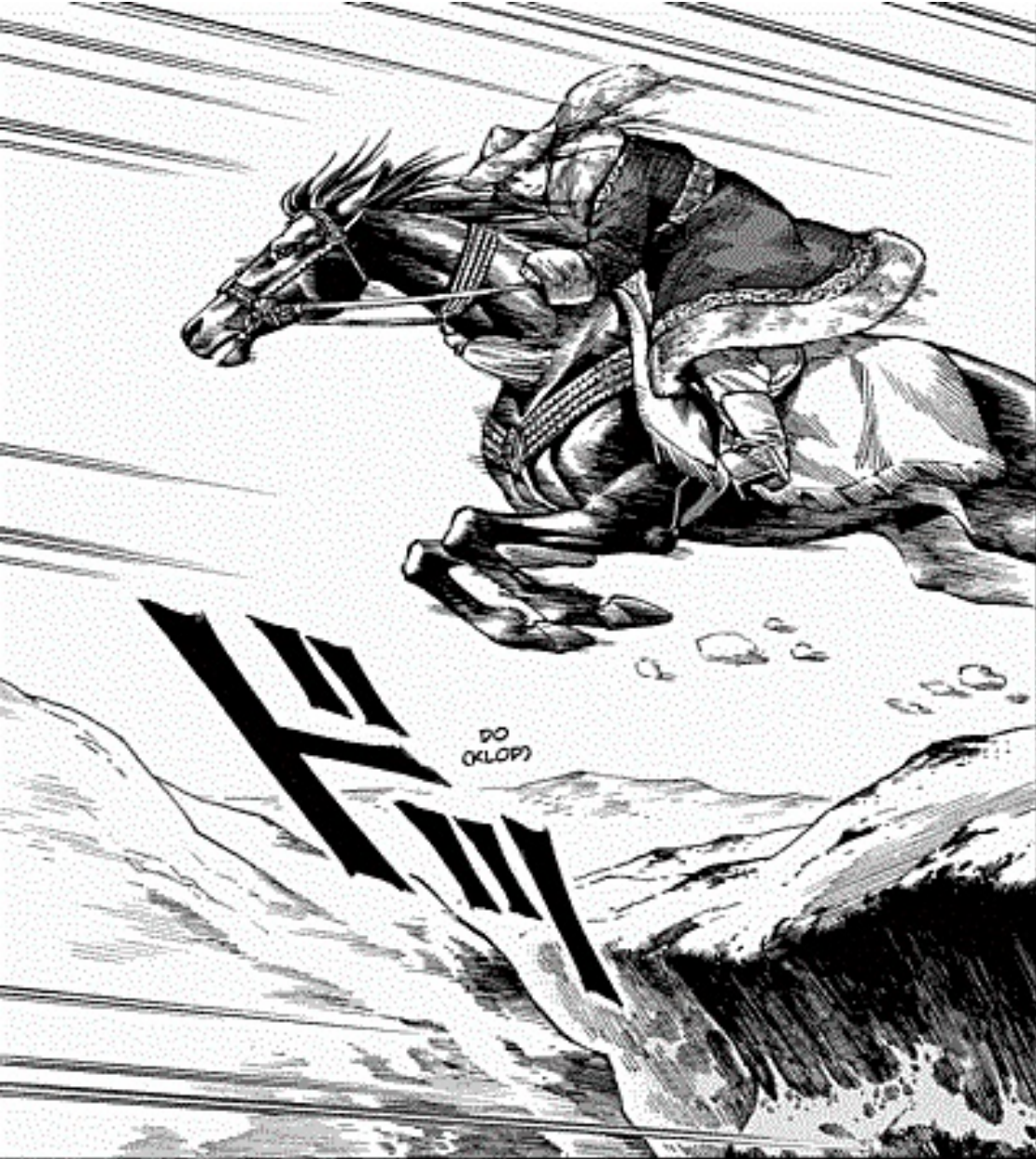




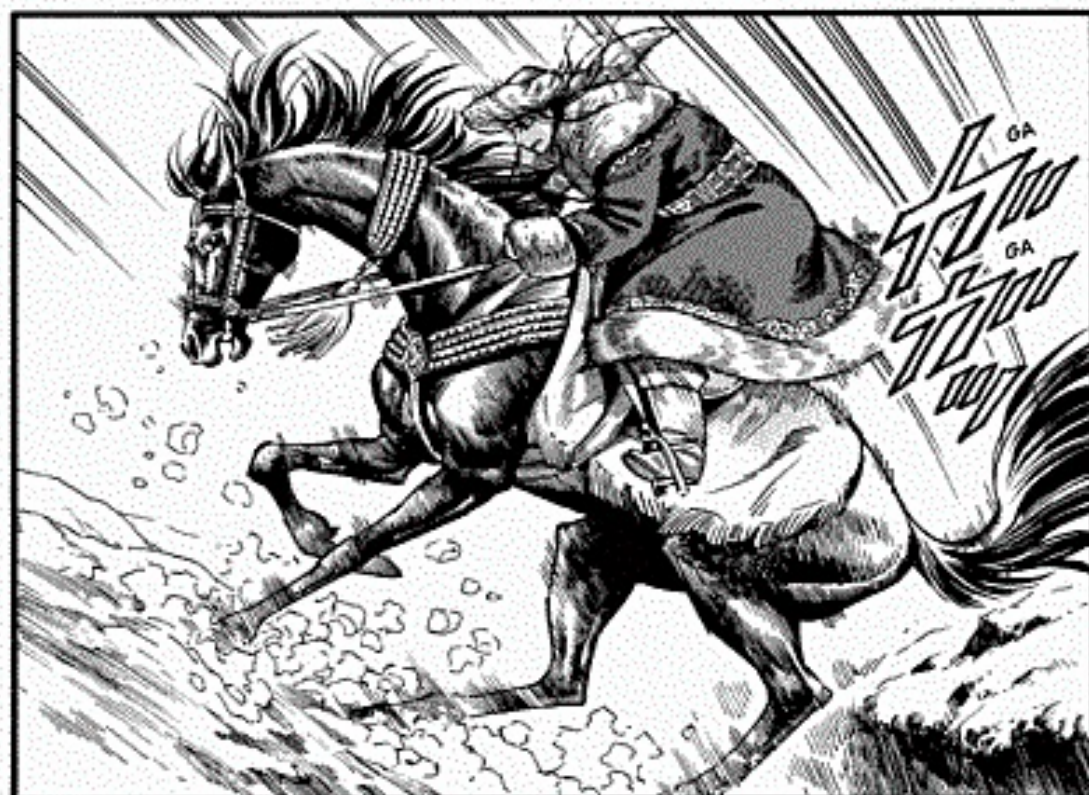
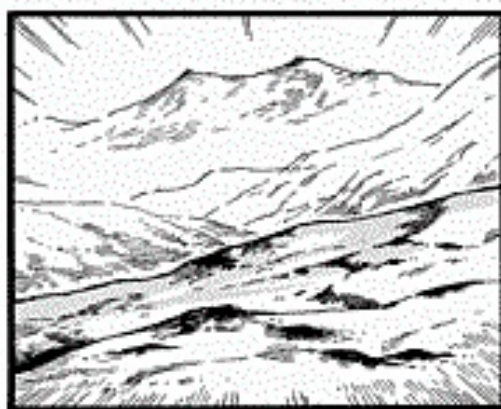
◆
CHAPTER 98
A SINGLE ARROW
◆





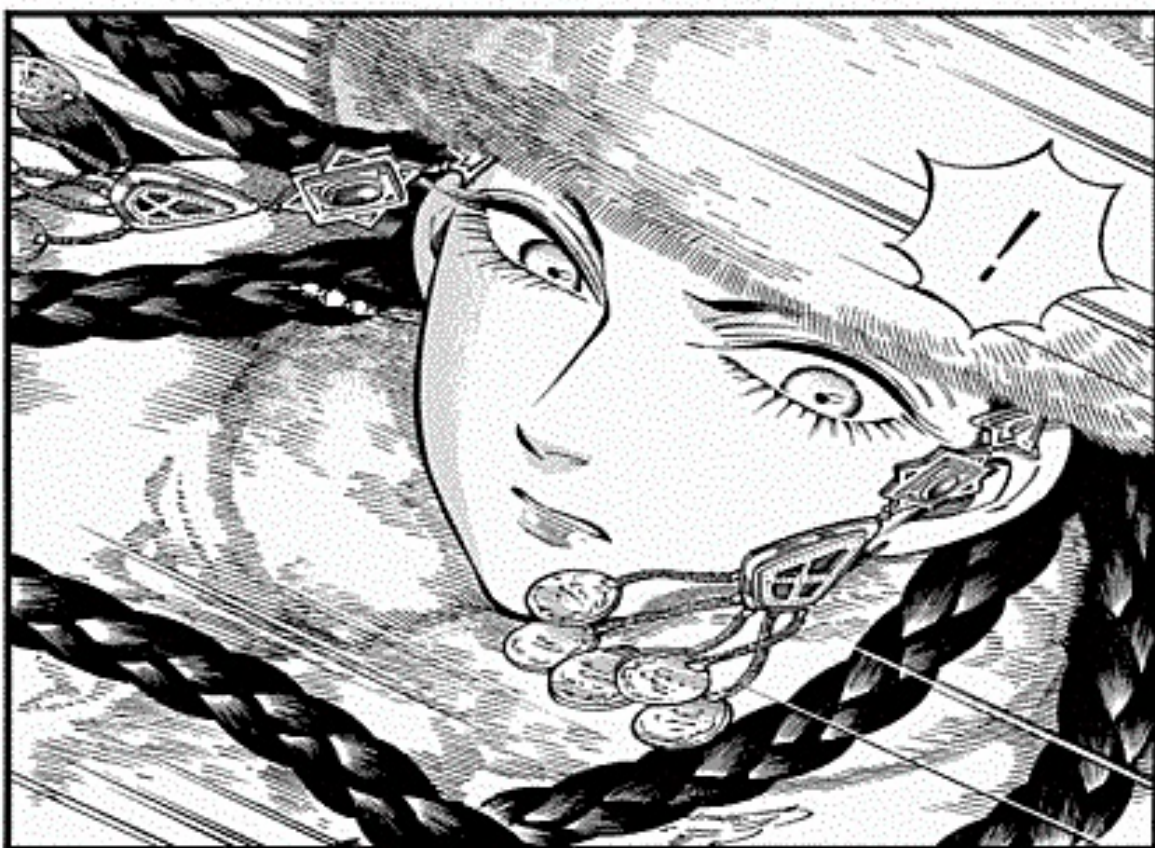
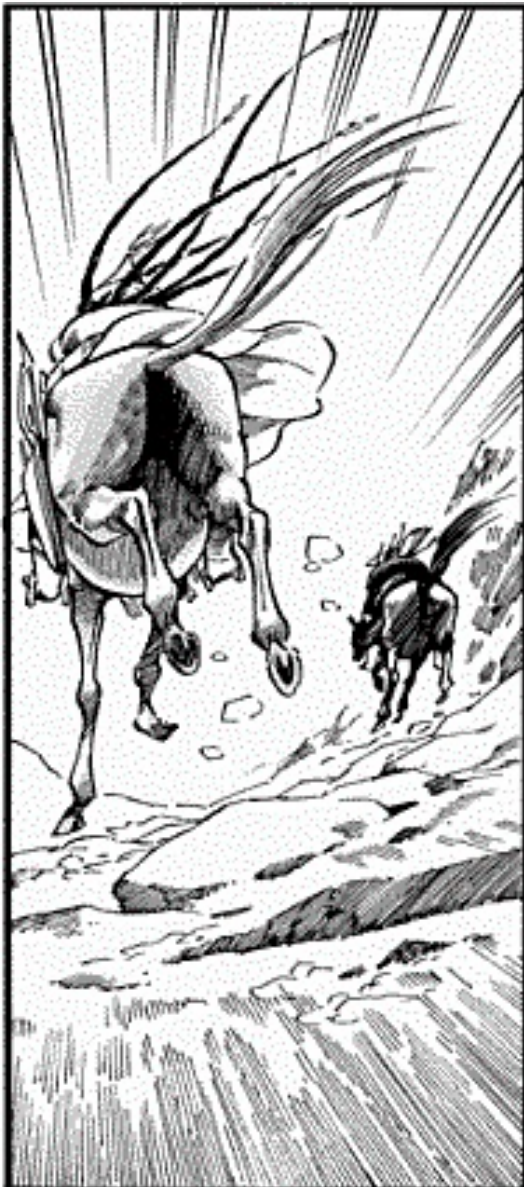


DO
(KLOP)















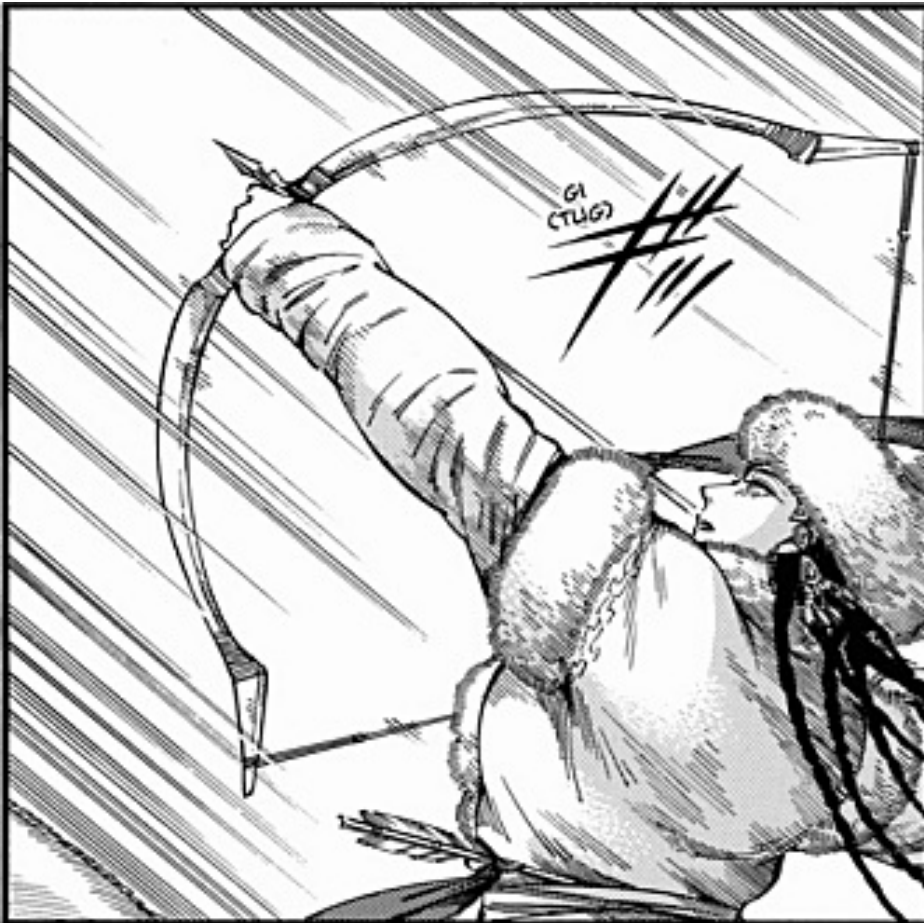
YOU MUST
TAKE ONE AND
RETURN HERE.
THE ONE WHO
COMES BACK
FIRST IS THE
VICTOR.



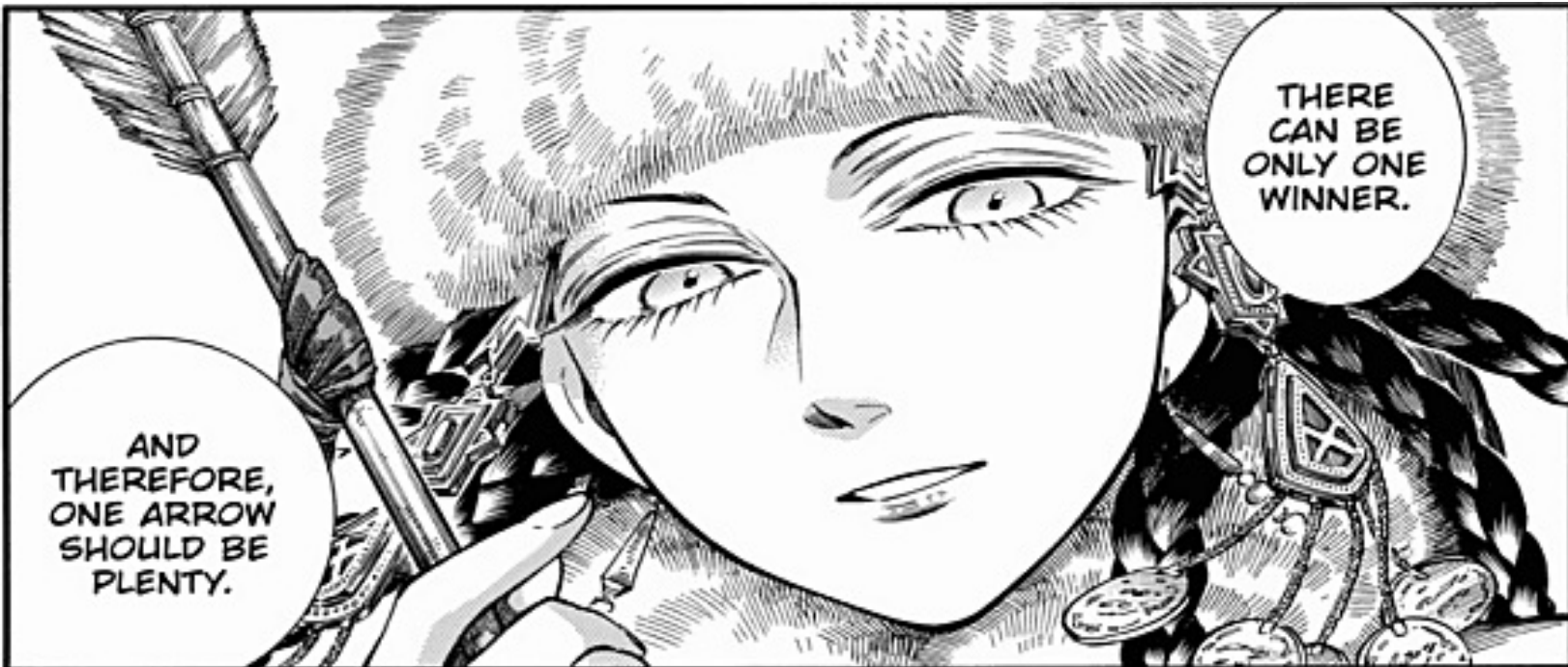










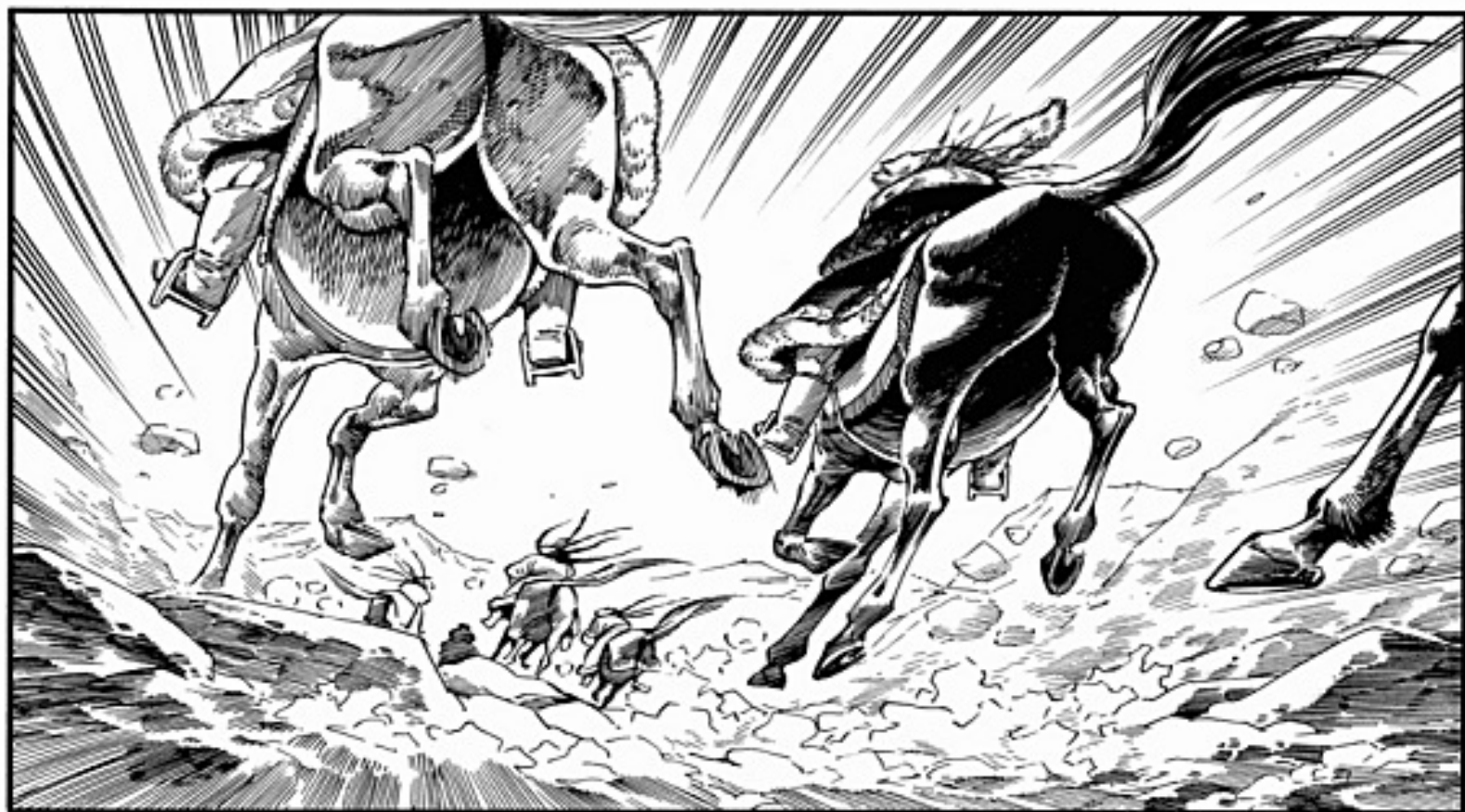














TO LEAD A
CLAN...

...IS TO
BE THE
STRONGEST
MAN OF
THEM ALL.



IN ORDER
TO UNITE
OUR-
SELVES
THROUGH
BLOOD...

THE
EXISTENCE
OF OUR CLAN
IS RESTING
ON THIS!



IN ORDER
TO FORM
AN
ALLIANCE
TO STAND
AGAINST
RUSSIA...

I CANNOT
GUARANTEE AN
ENGAGEMENT.



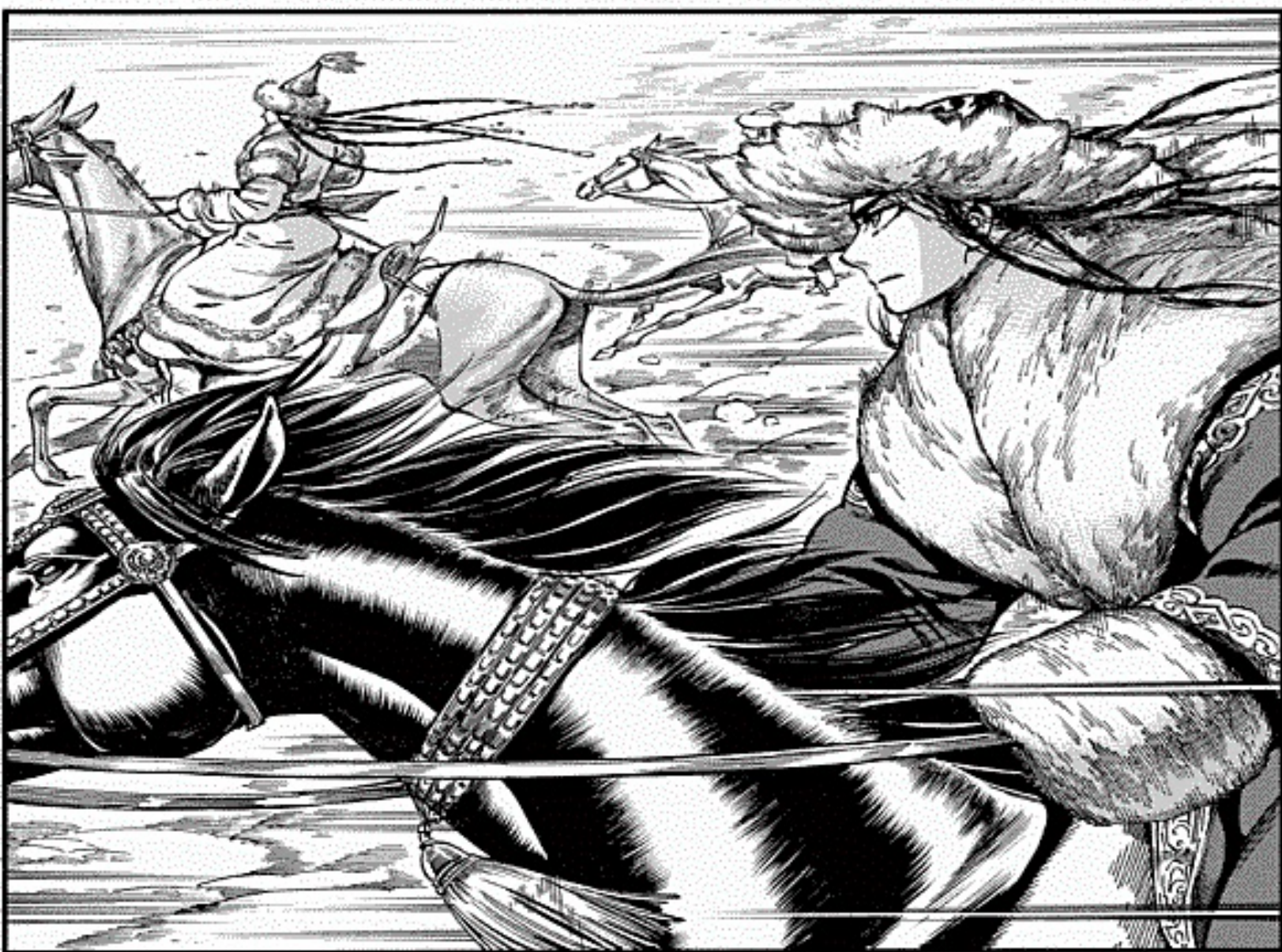
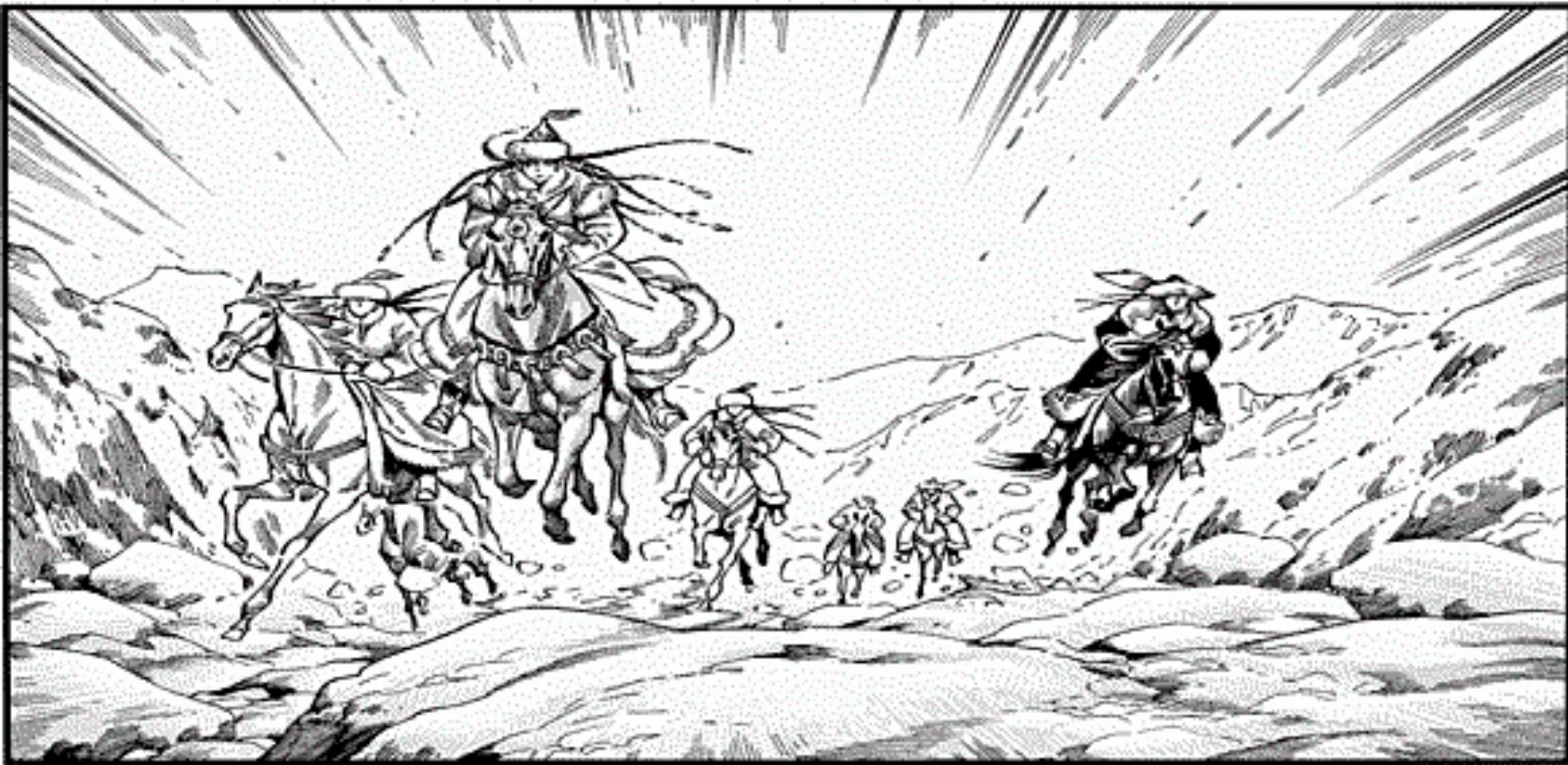
THE WOMEN
OF THE STEPPE
WILL NOT
ACKNOWLEDGE
WEAK MEN.

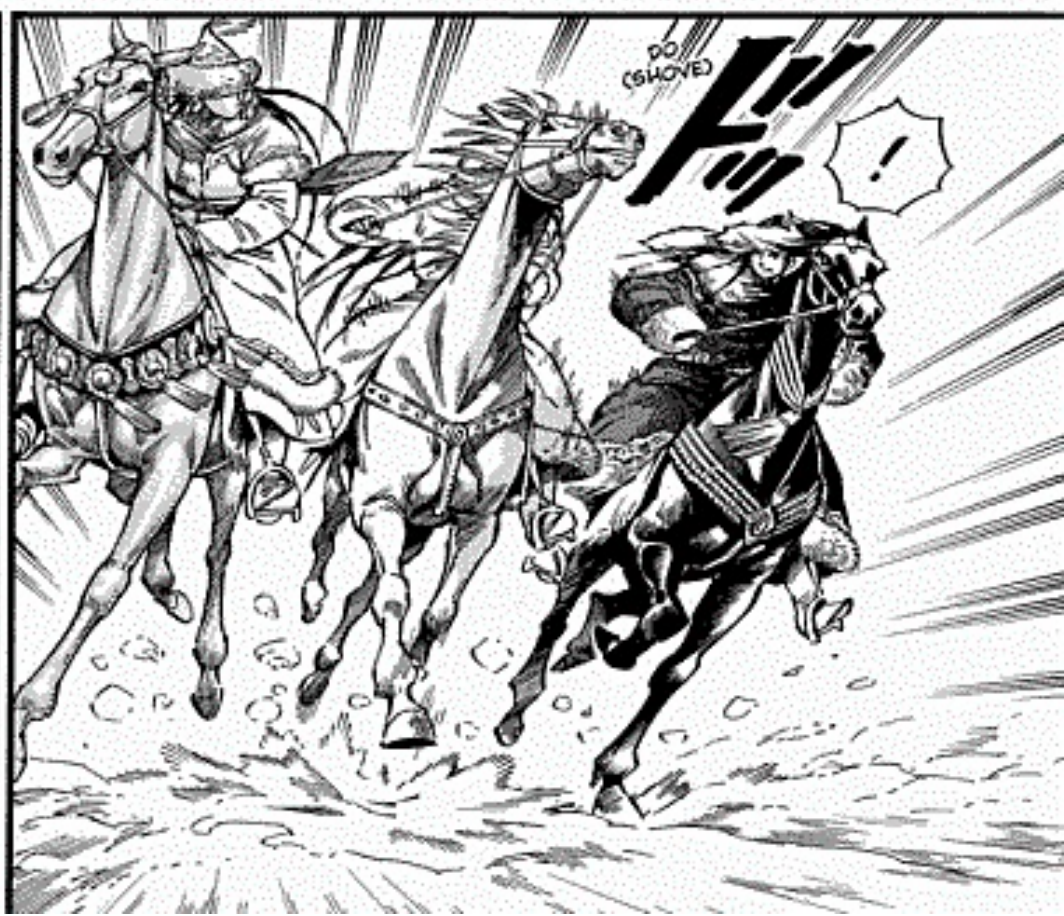
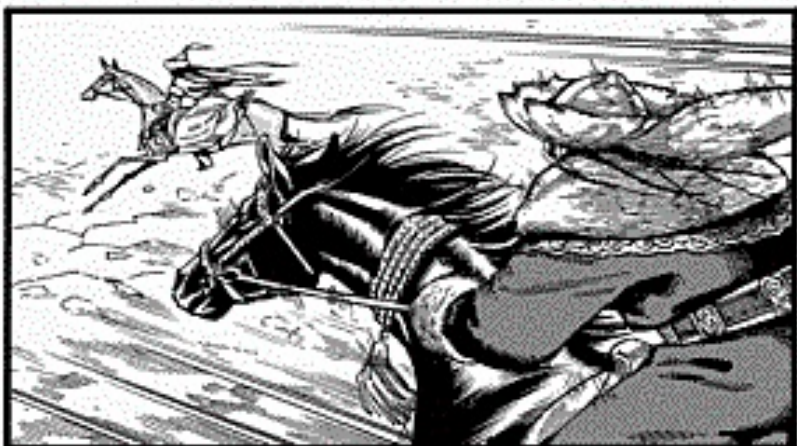
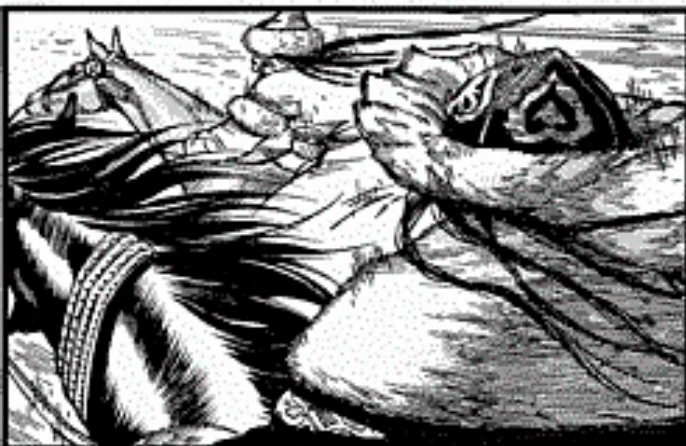


IF YOU
WANT TO
WIN, THEN
TAKE IT
FROM ME.

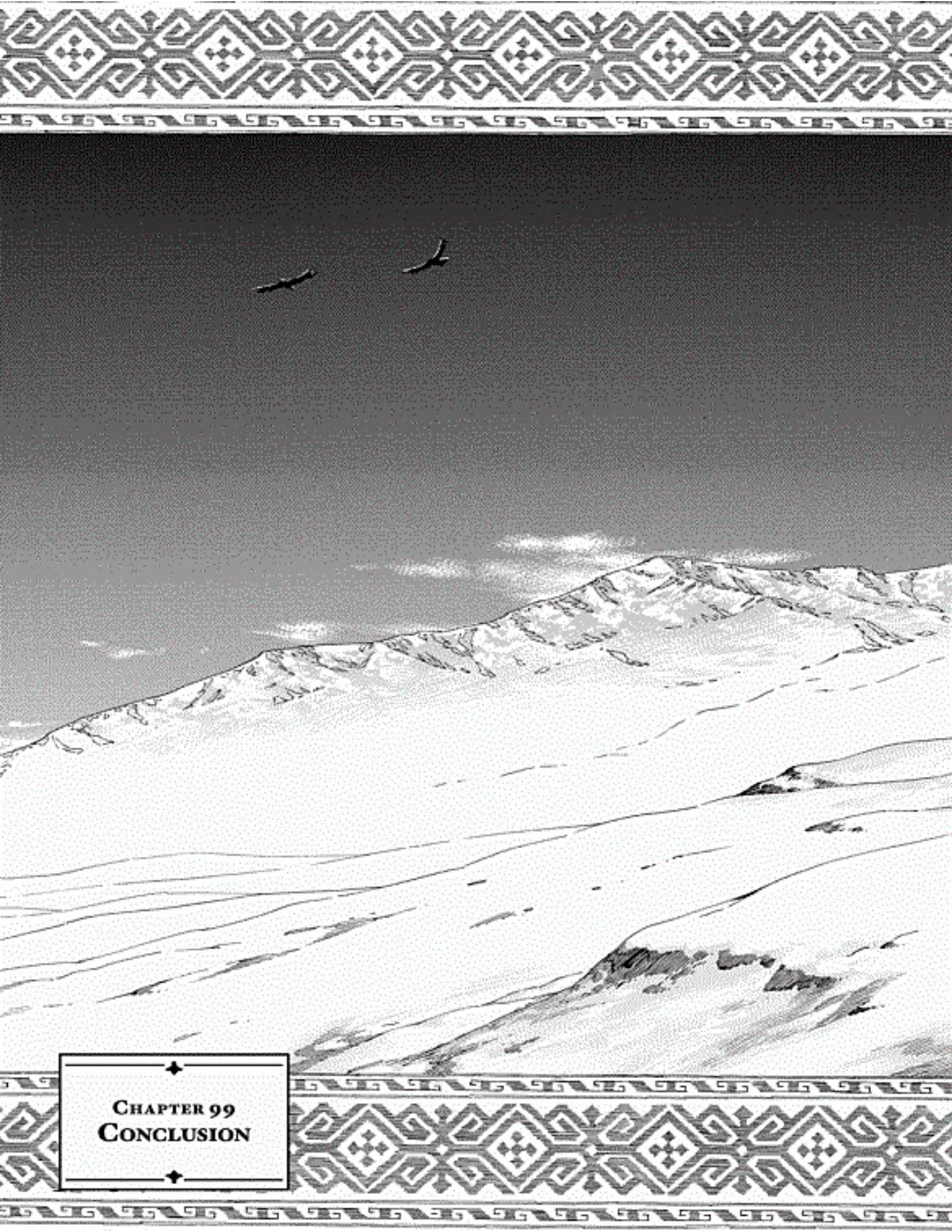






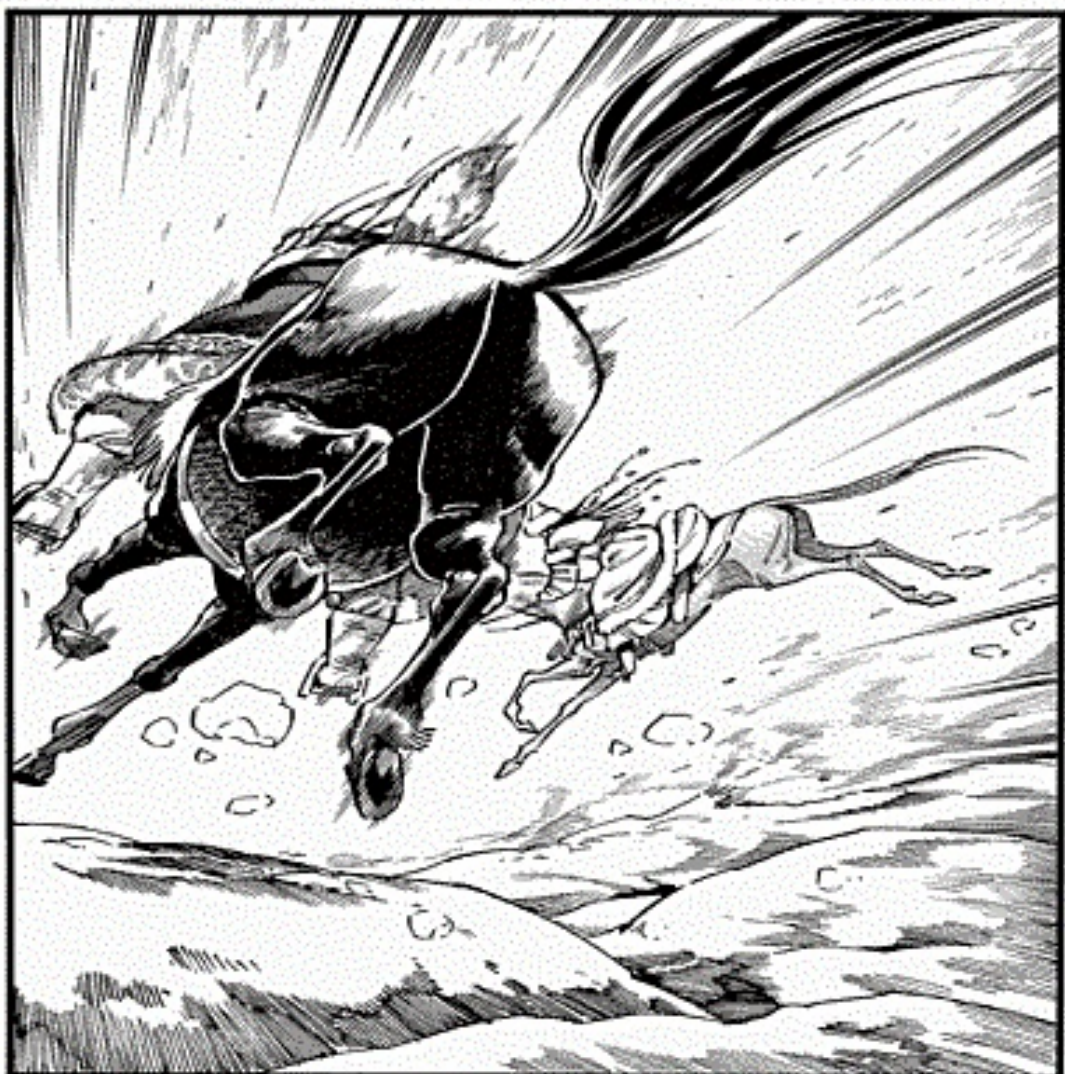


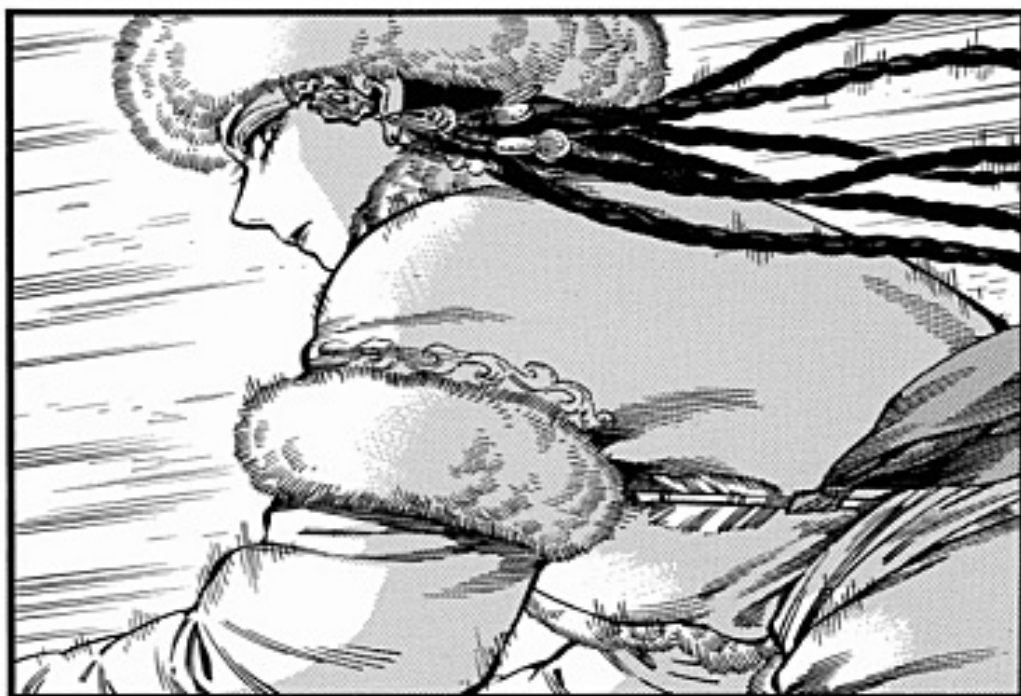


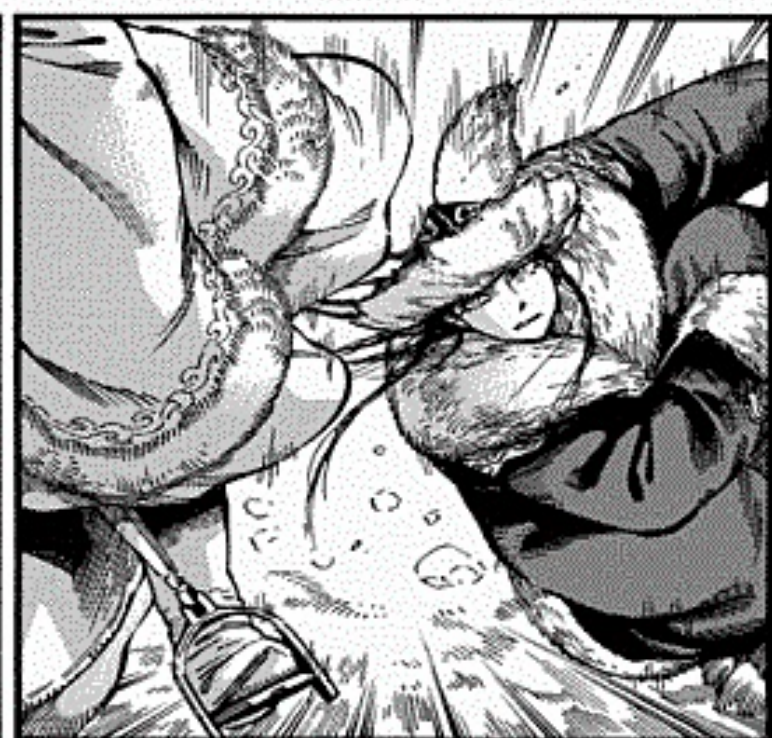
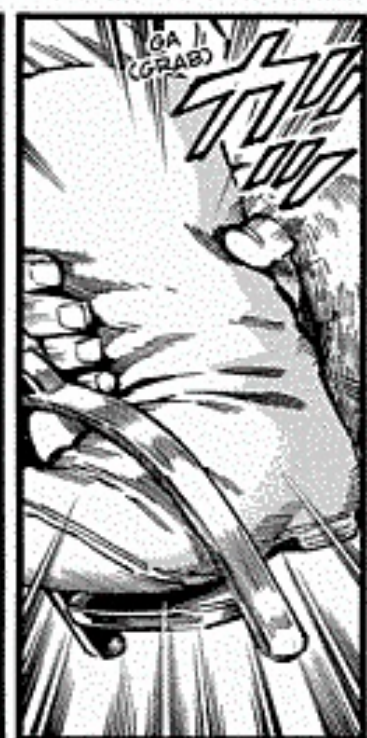
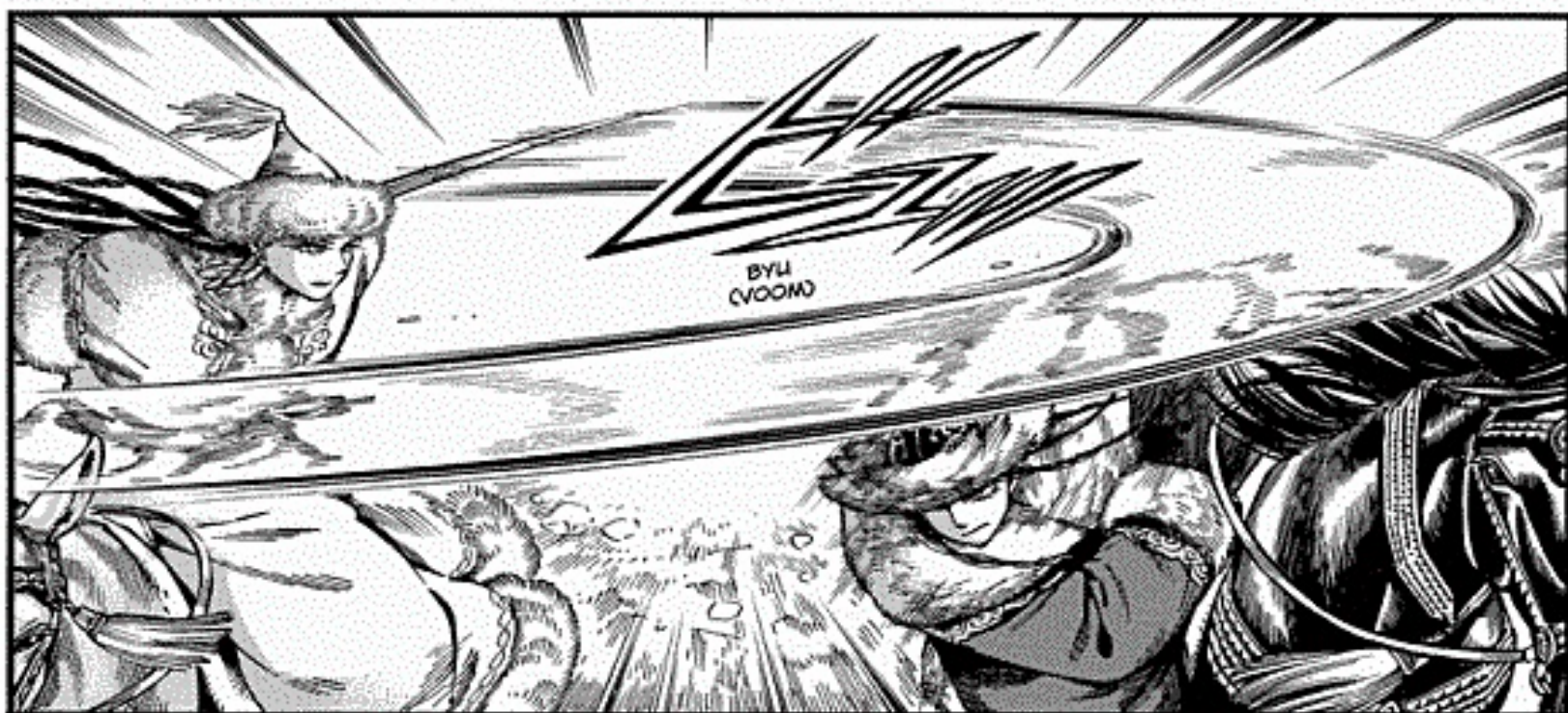


◆
CHAPTER 99
CONCLUSION
◆

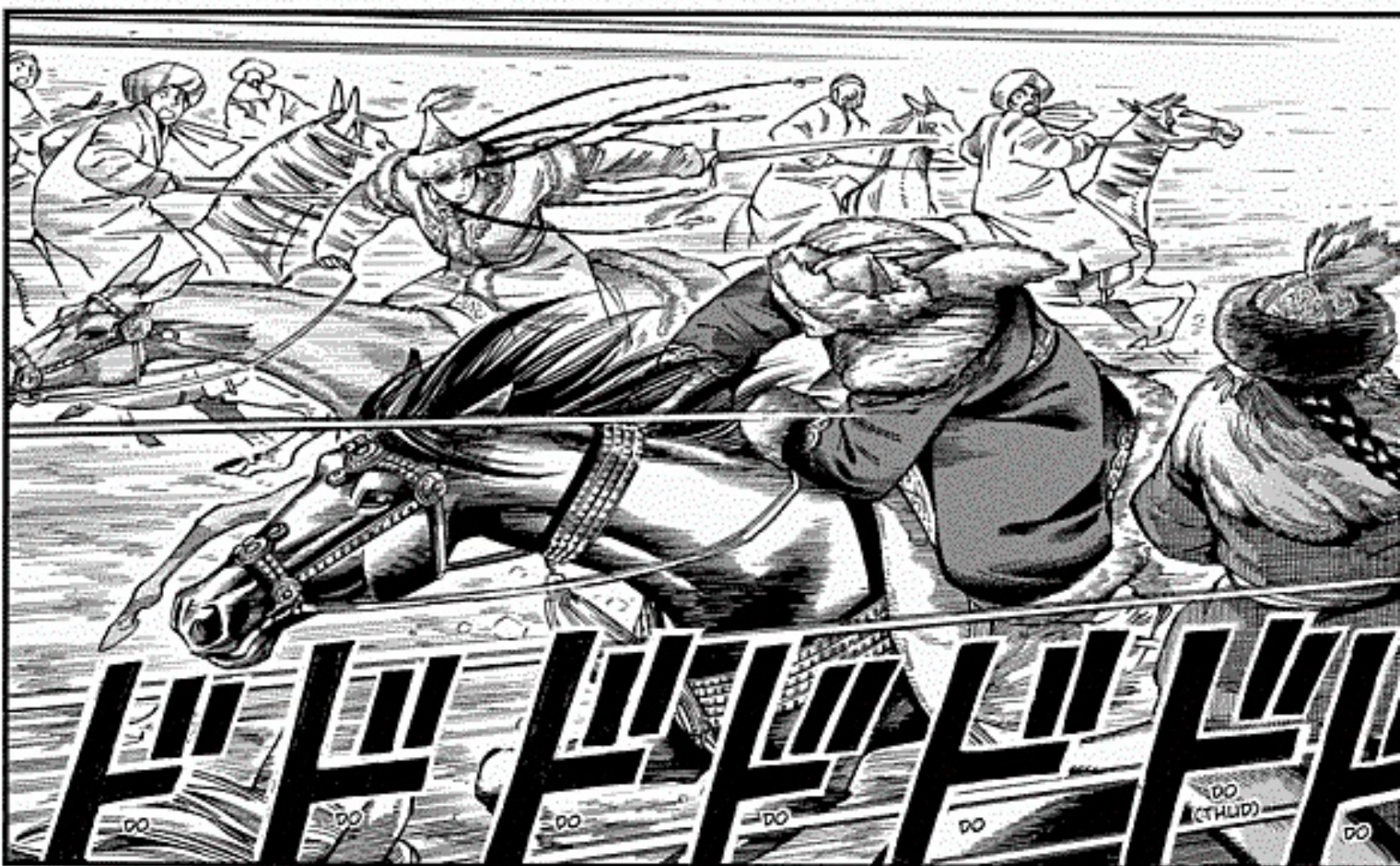
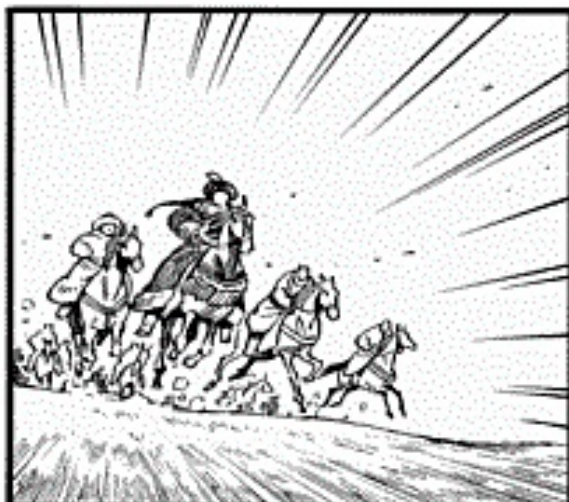
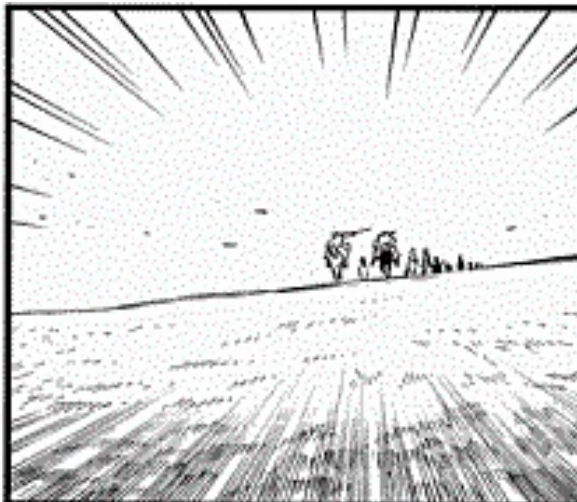








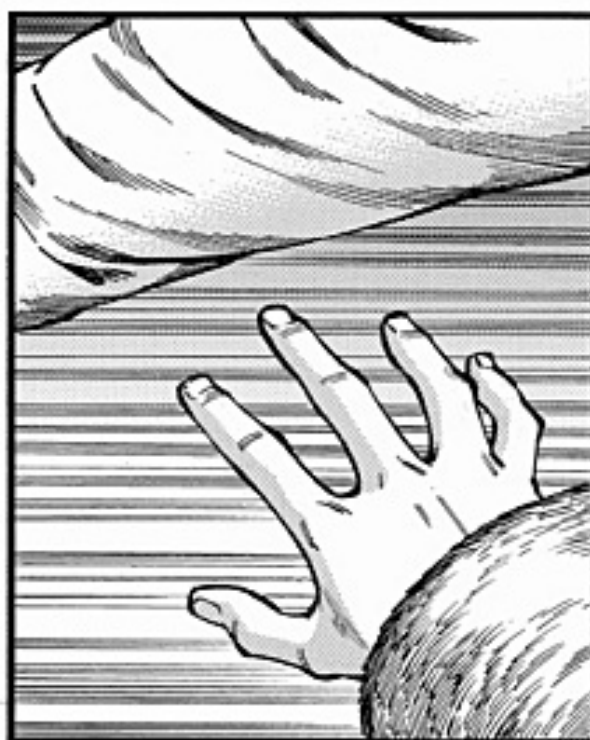






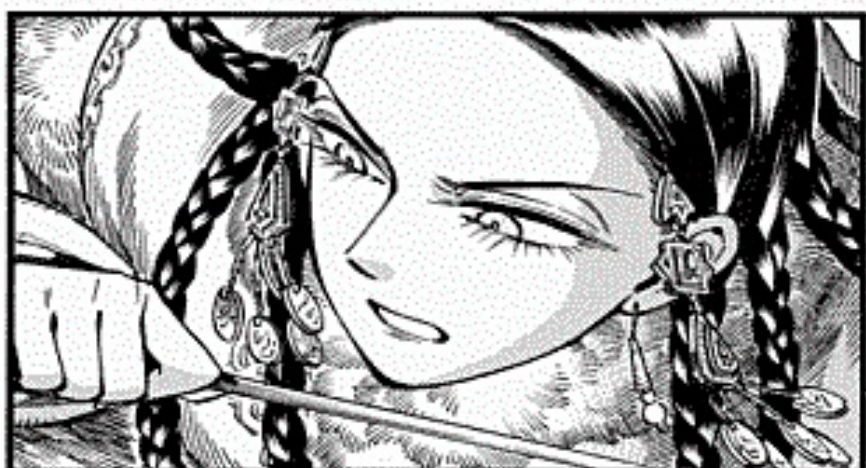
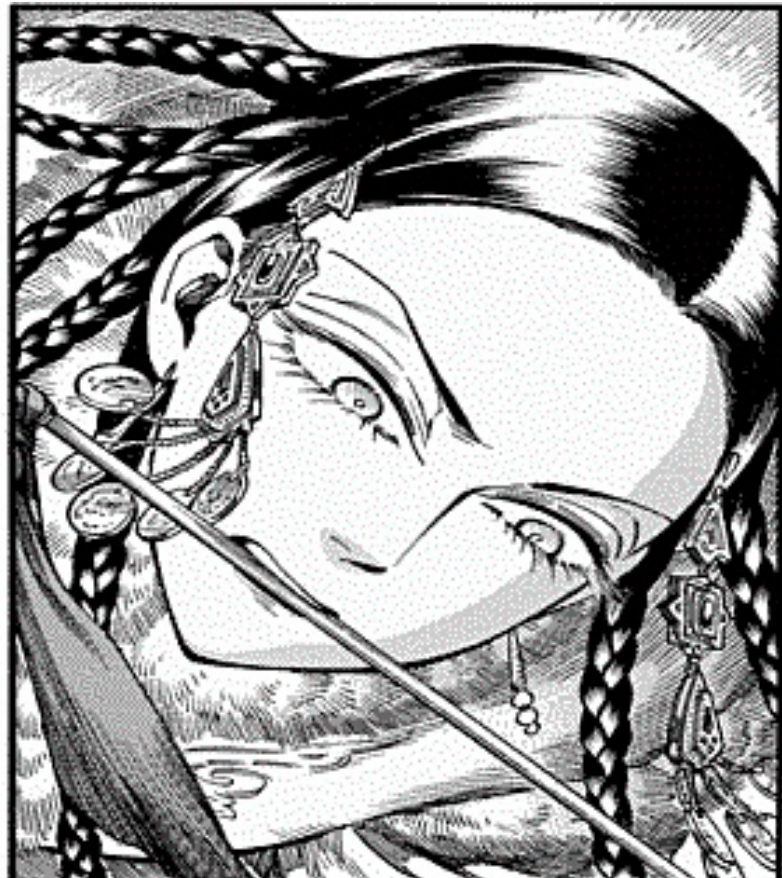
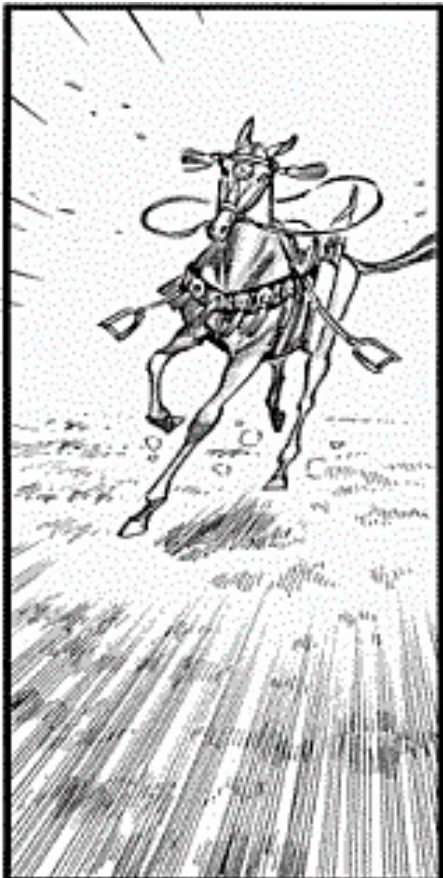


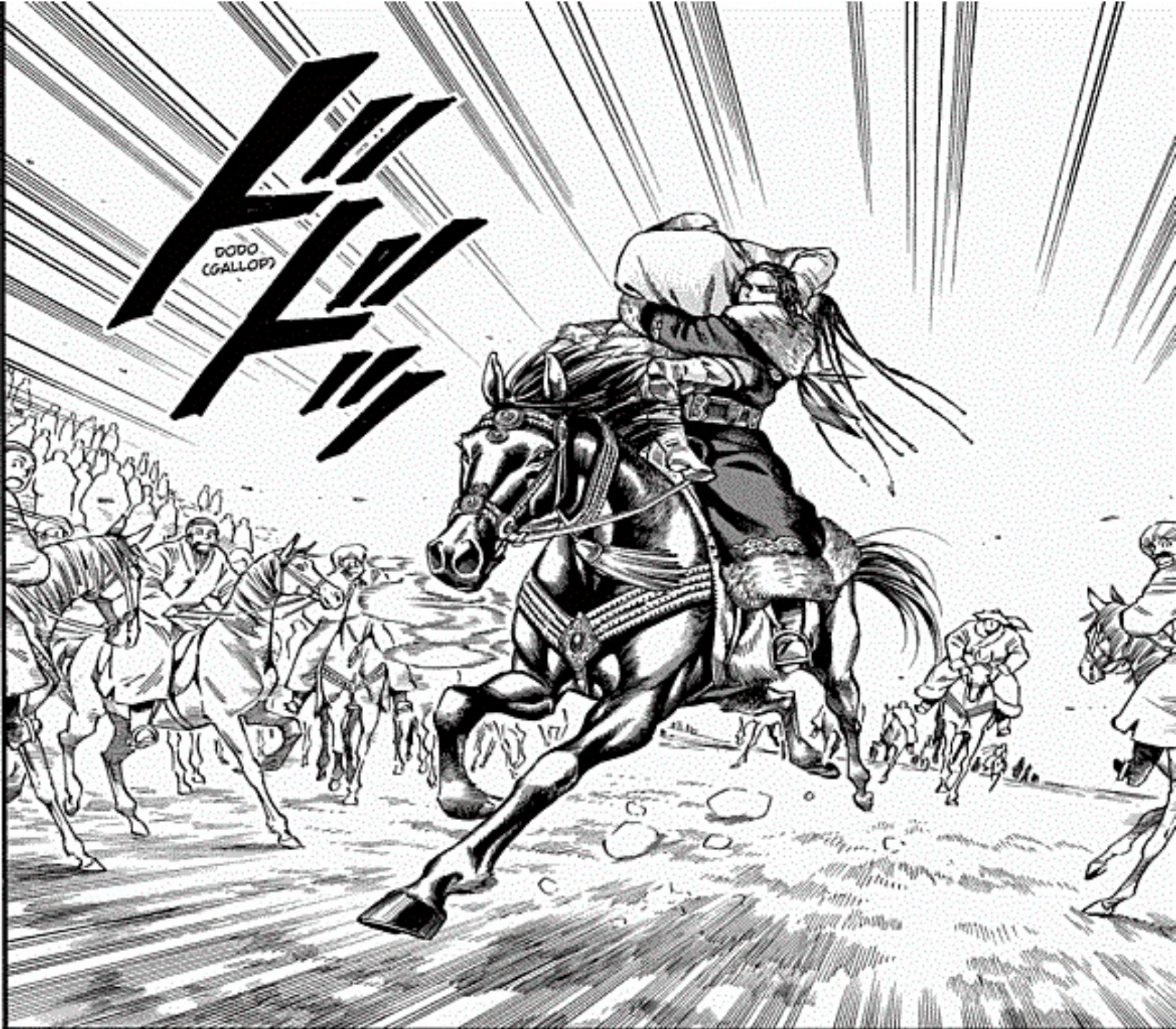


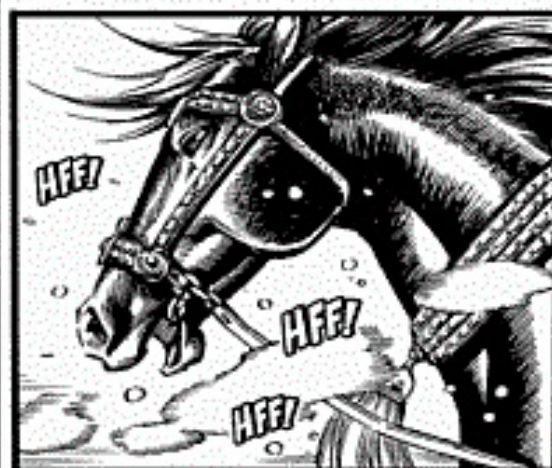
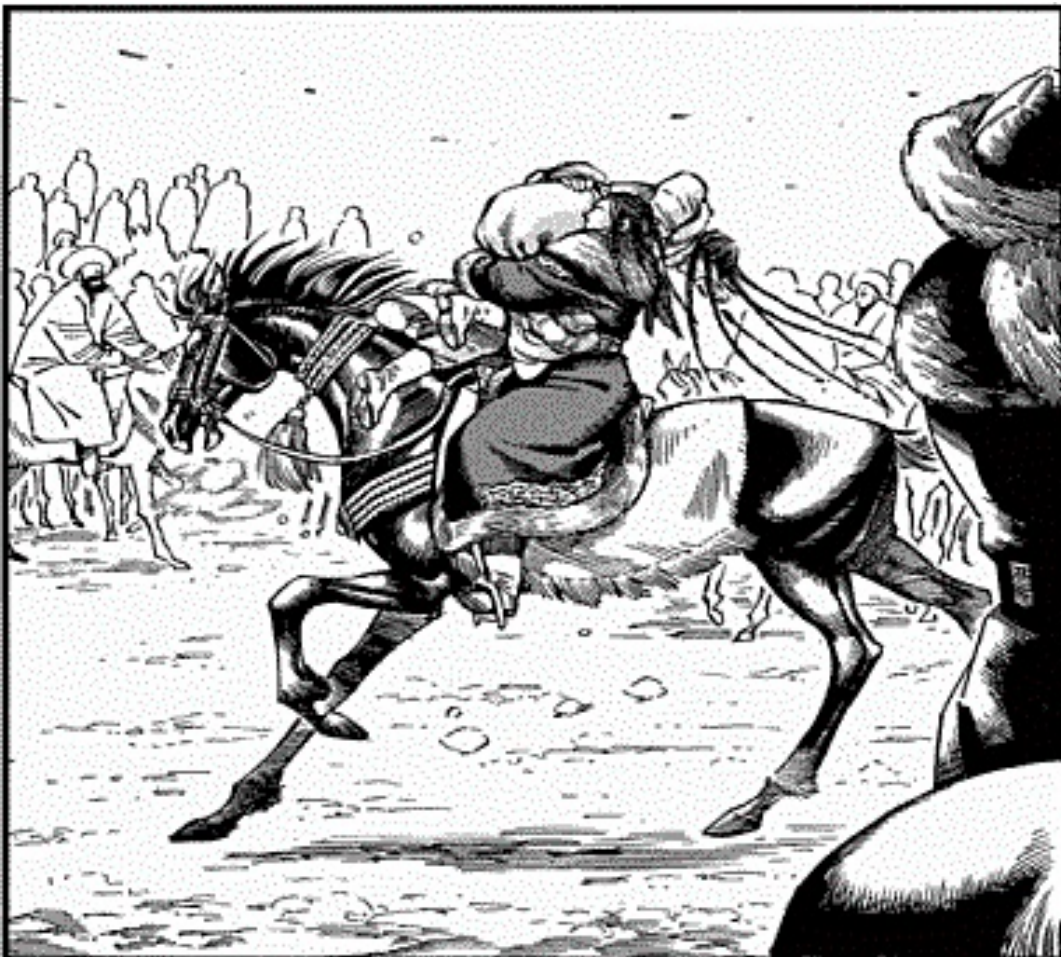


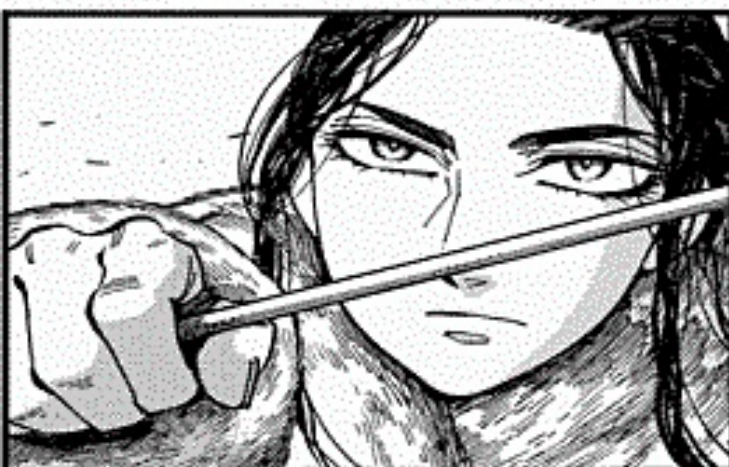
















**HALGAL
CLAIMS
THE
VICTORY!**

**I DEEM
HIM
WORTHY
BOTH AS
ALLY AND
SUITOR
TO MY
CLAN!**

**HE HAS
PROVEN
THIS IN A
SPLENDID
WIN!**



**WHERE
TO EVEN
BEGIN?**

WELL...

.....



**NOW,
LET'S HEAR
ALL ABOUT
WHAT HAP-
PENED.**

**IT SEEMS
TO HAVE
BEEN A VERY
INTERESTING
CONTEST!**



**EX-
CEL-
LENT!**

**YOU
DID IT,
AZEL!**





IF OUR
DAUGHTERS
AGREE, THEN
THEY MAY
BE YOUR
BRIDES.

EACH OF
YOU CHOOSE
ONE WHO
SUITS YOU.

YES,
VERY
WELL.



I
SEE.

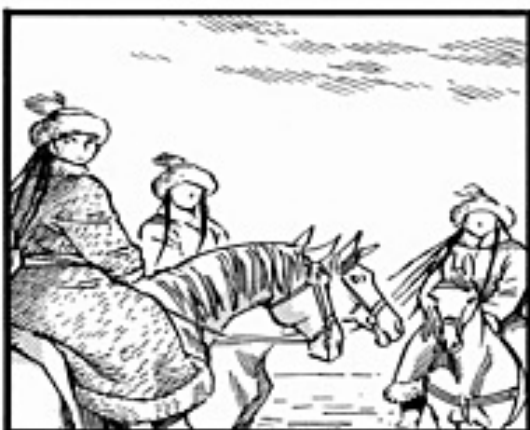
THAT
WAS
FAST.



HE SAYS
THAT
I'M THE
ONE HE
WANTS!

HUH?







HE WAS
TOO VIOLENT
WITH HER, SO
WE TOOK HER
BACK.

HER
HUSBAND
WAS
WORTHLESS
TRASH.



.....
AIGUL
RETURNED
TO US
AFTER A
DIVORCE.



IT IS
THE FAULT
OF HER
PARENTS FOR
CHOOSING
THE WRONG
HUSBAND.



SHE
SHOULD
HAVE CUT
THE MAN
DOWN
WHERE HE
STOOD.

AIGUL
IS TOO
SWEET
FOR THAT.



HE KICKED
A KETTLE
OF BOILING
BROTH
ONTO HER.









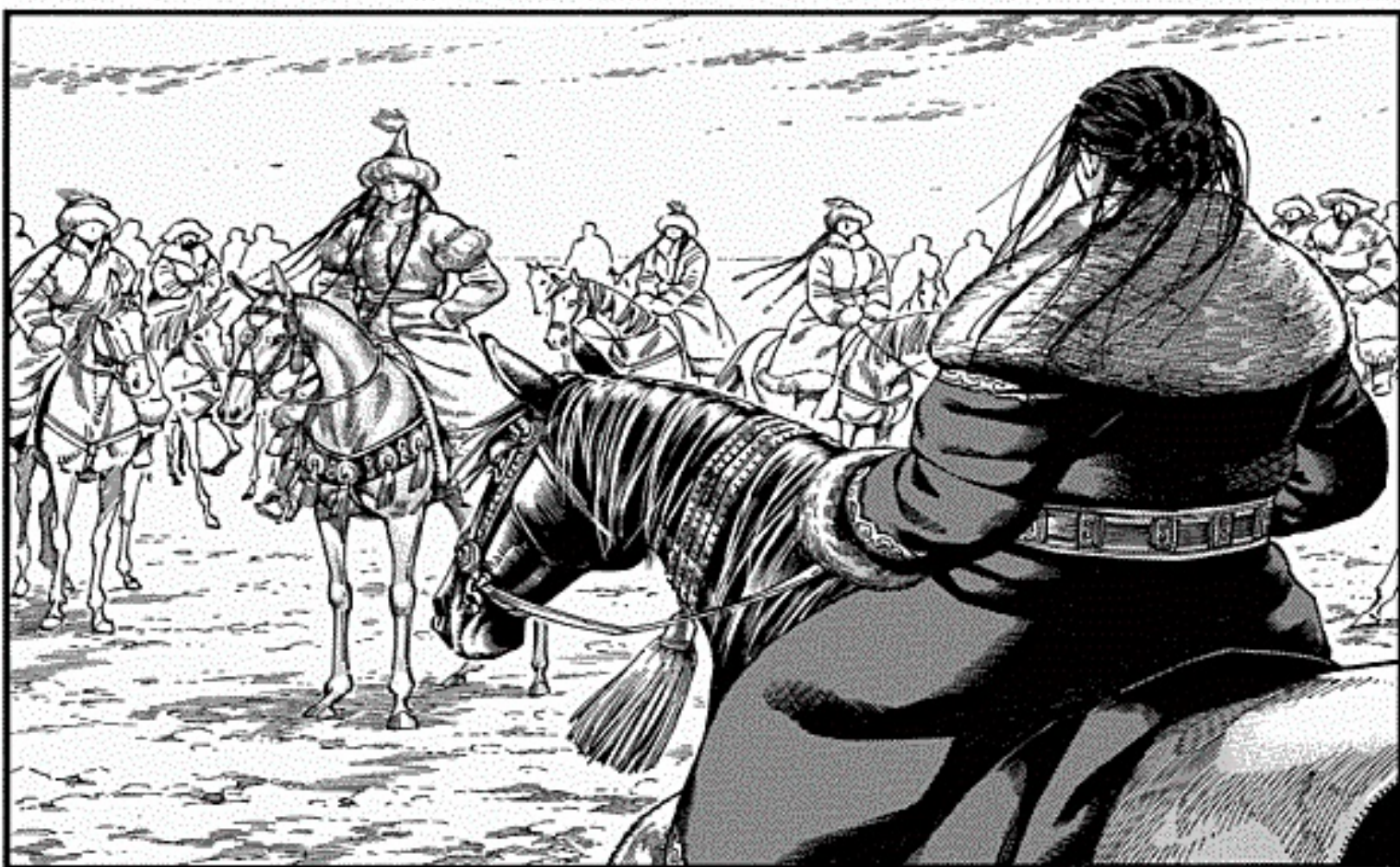
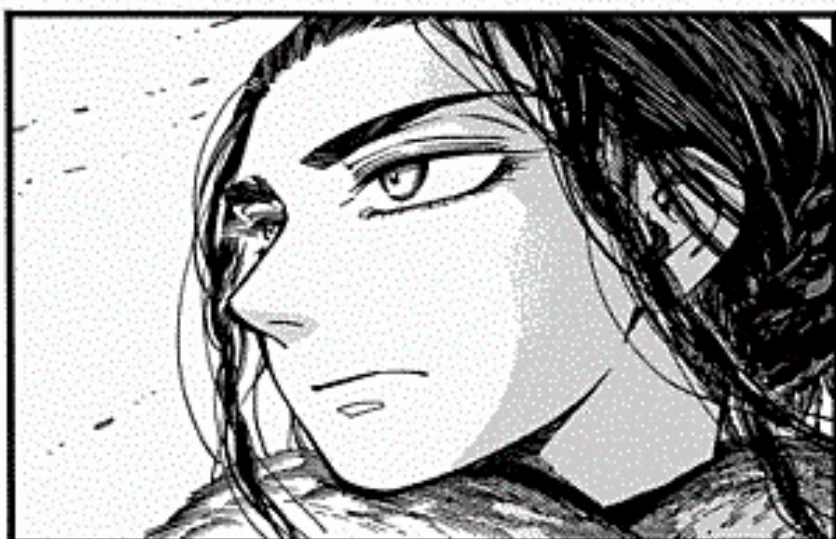
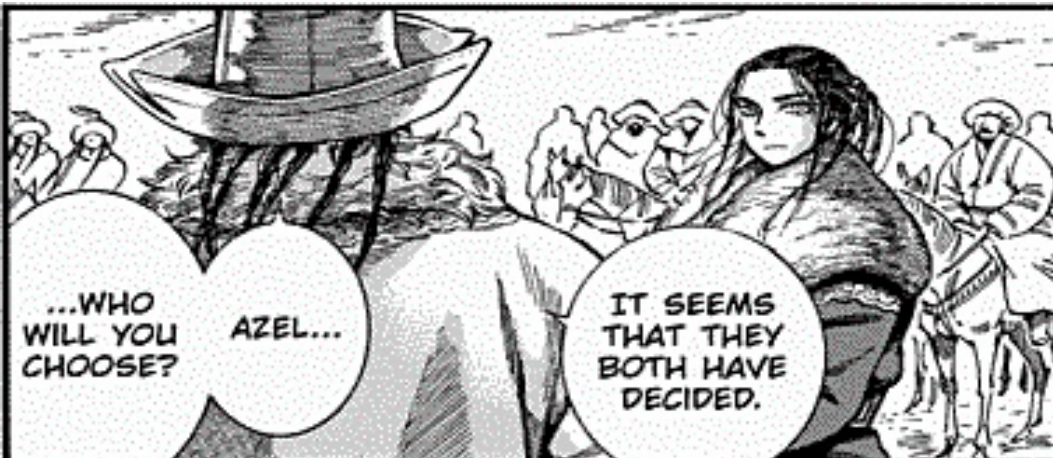
AIGUL HAS BEEN HURT BADLY.

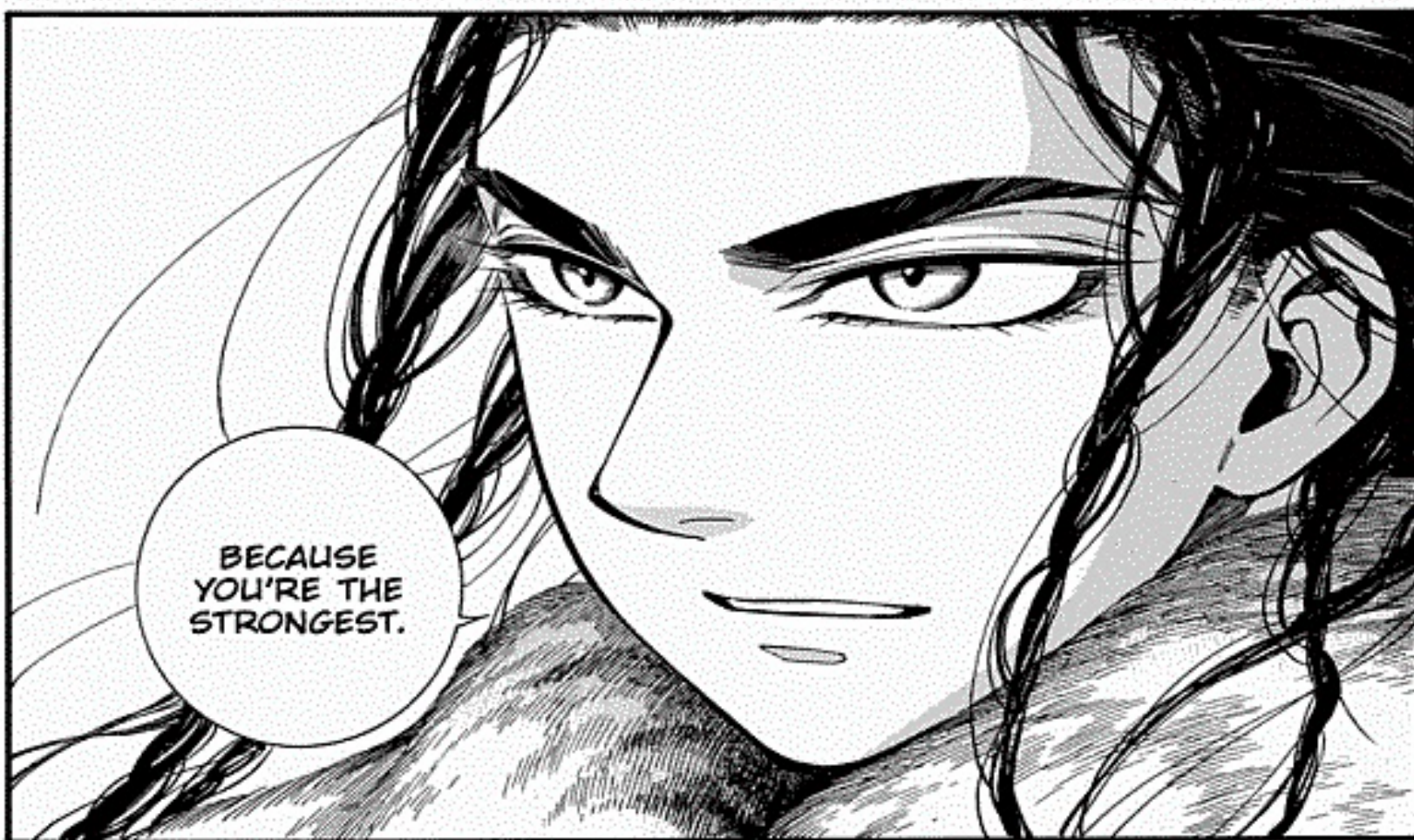
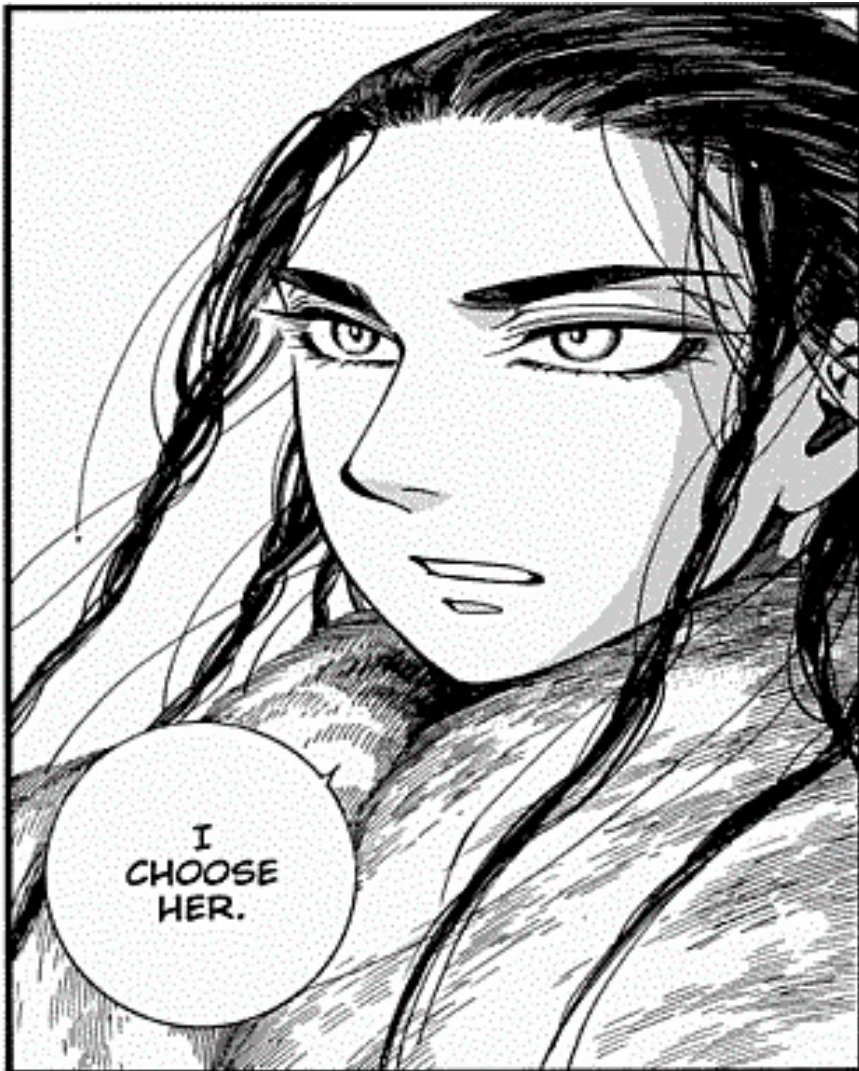
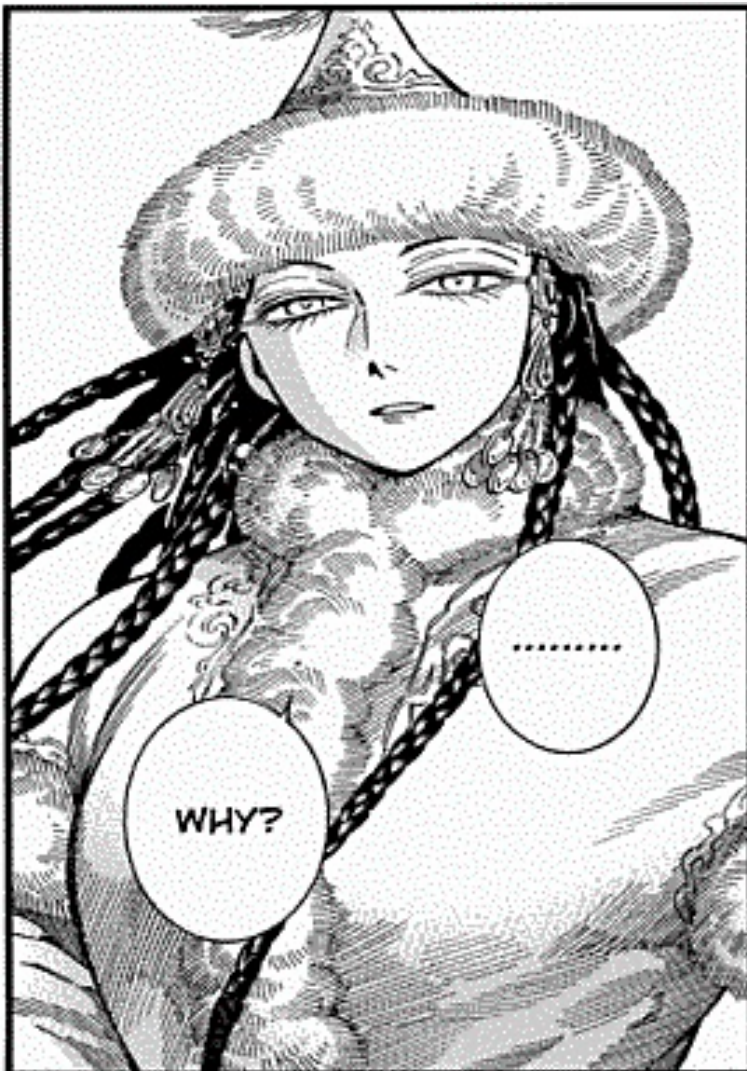


...THEN AS A MAN, THAT IS A REASON TO CHOOSE HER.



I WILL DO NOTHING THAT WILL CAUSE HER HARM.













THE
OWNER'S
BODY WAS
STILL ON
KALKASHKA'S
BACK.



KALKASHKA
WANDERED
ONTO OUR
GRAZING
GROUNDS.



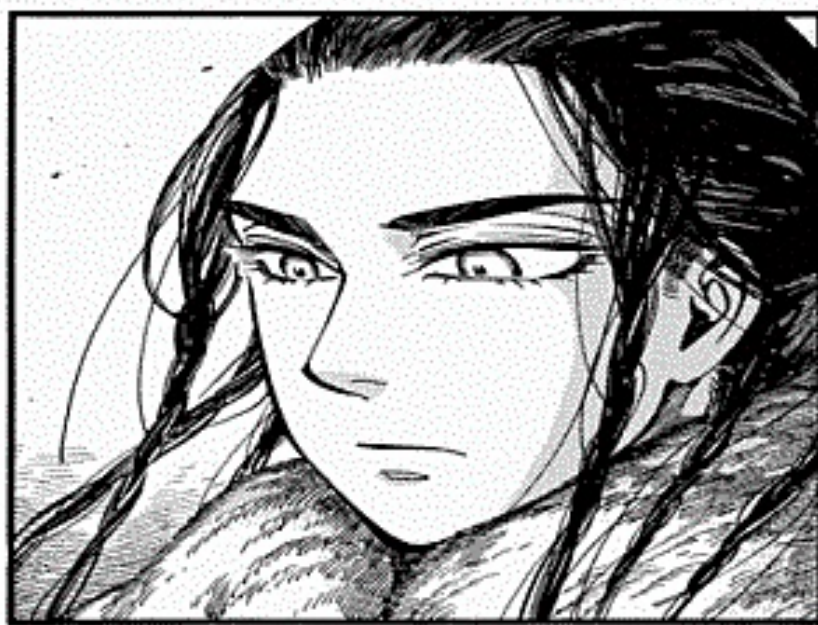
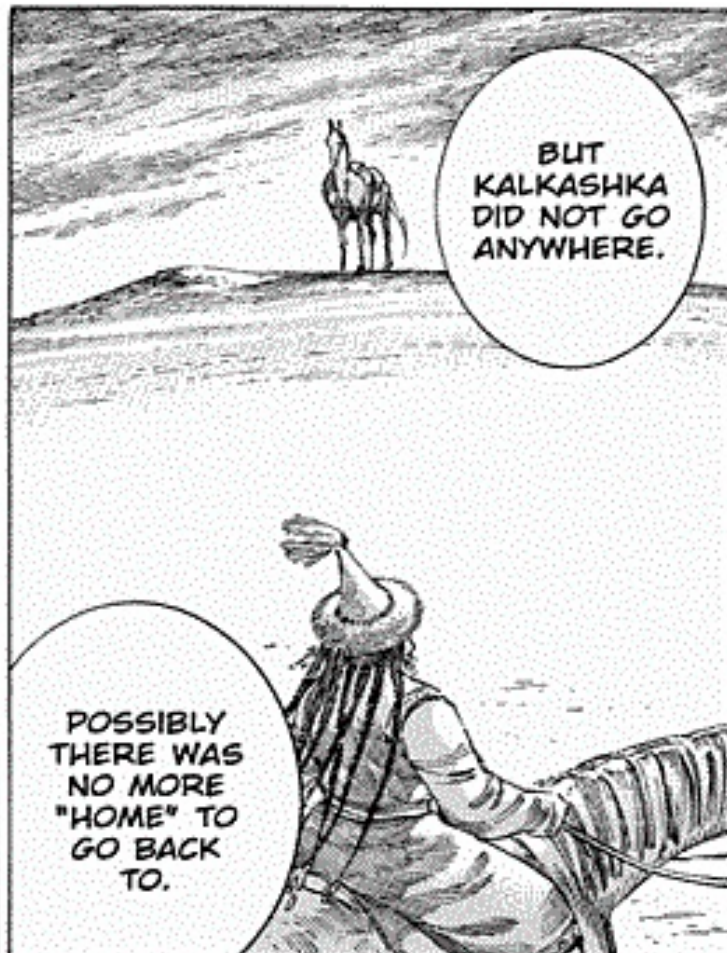
I BURIED
THE
BODY WITH
CARE.



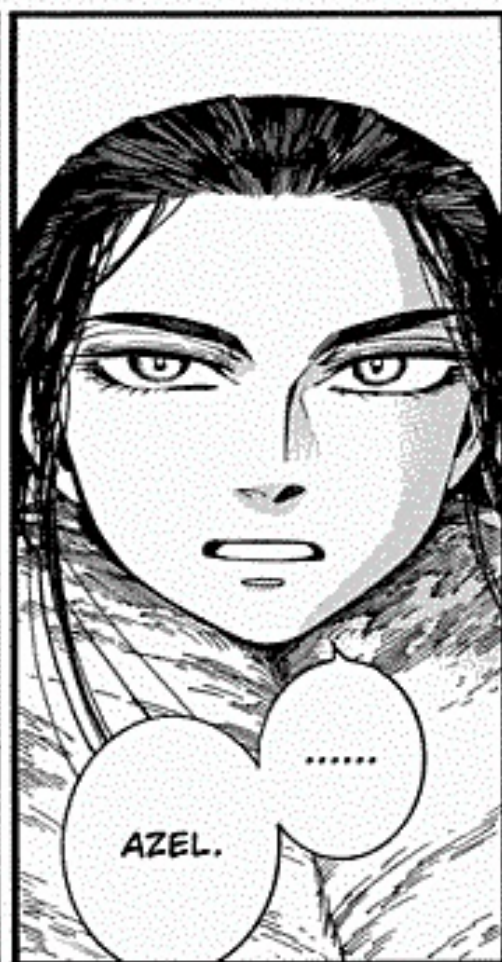
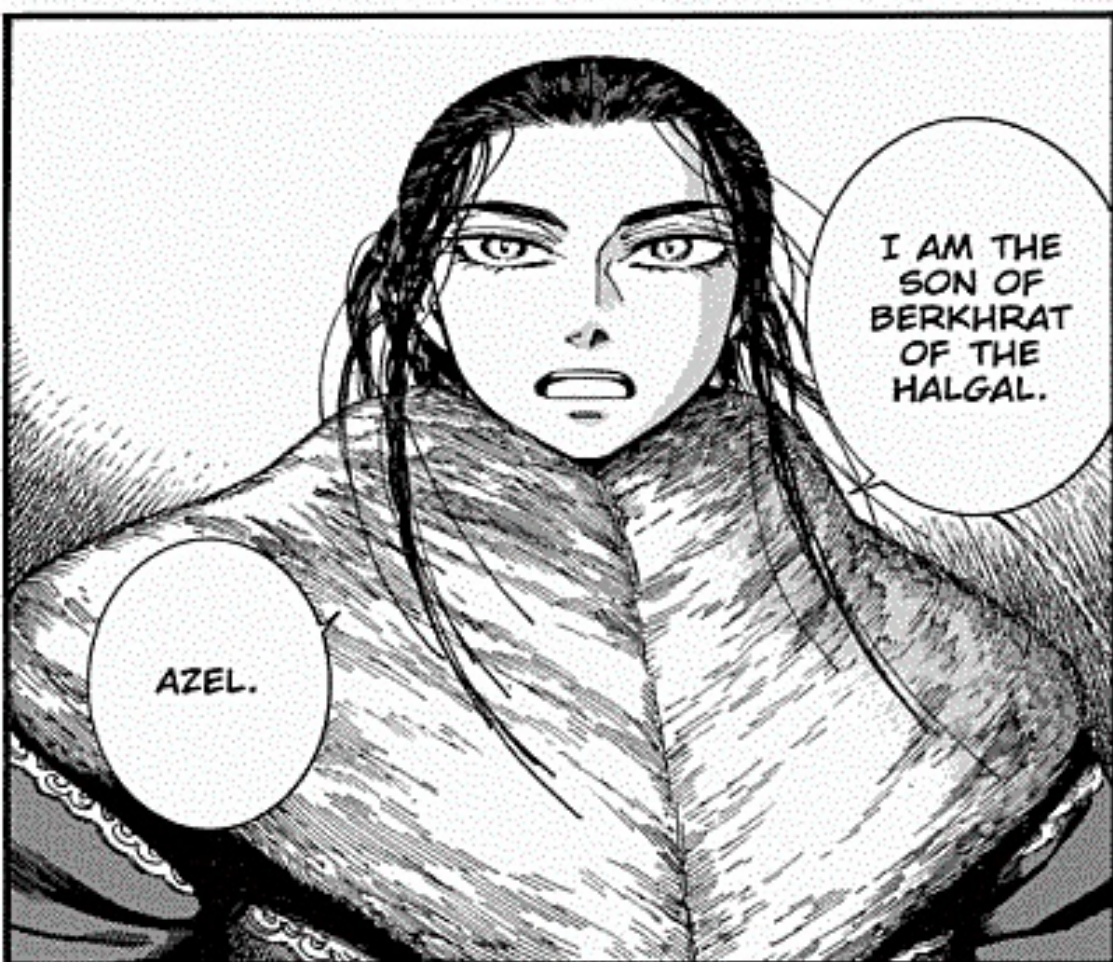
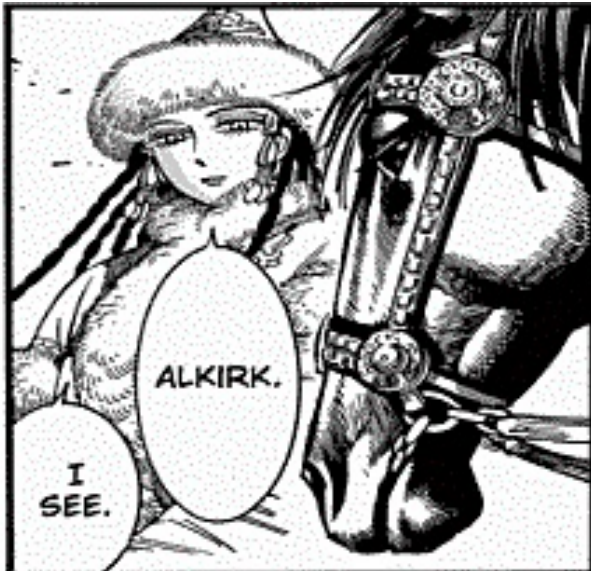
YOU MAY
RETURN
HOME.



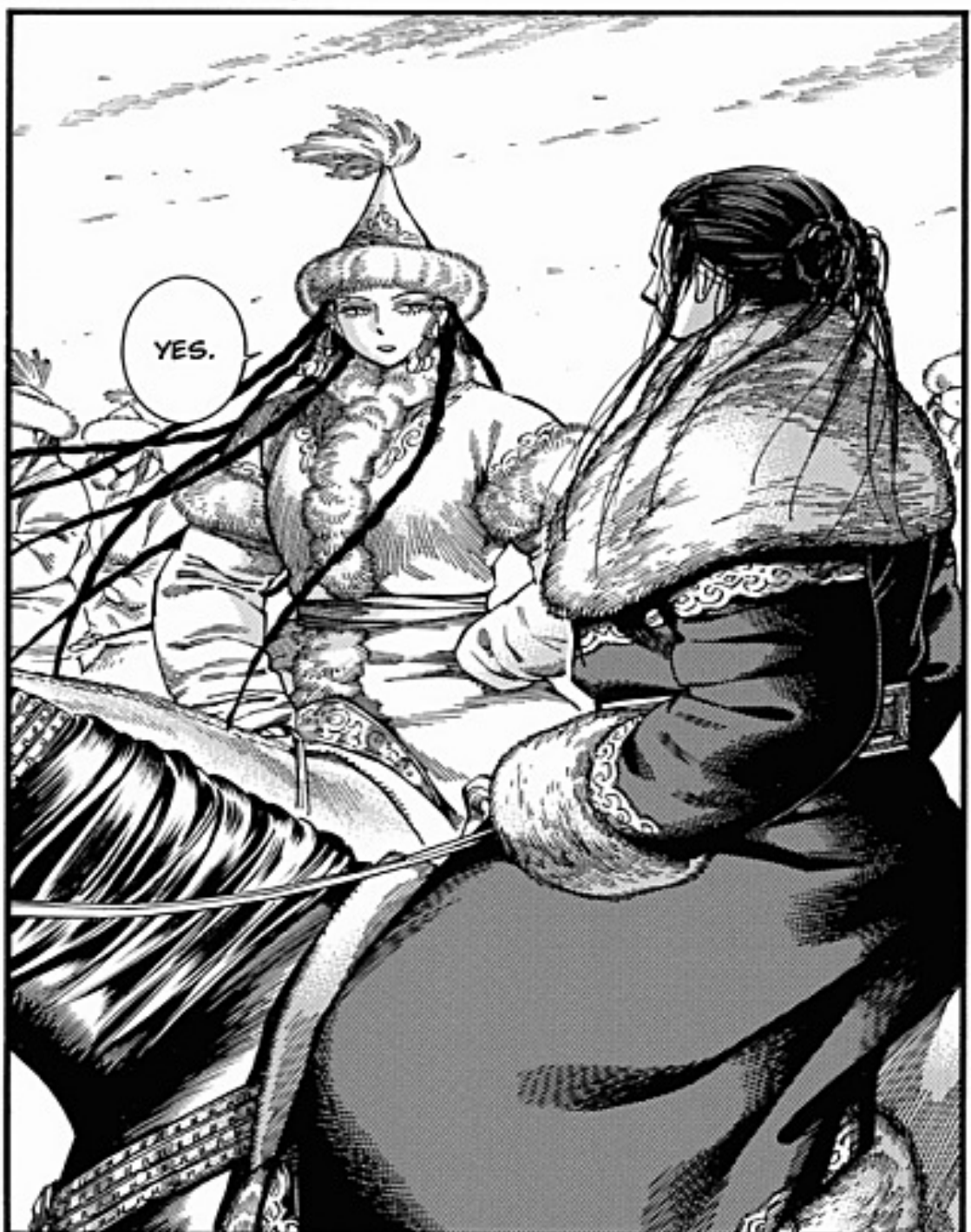
GYU
(TUG)





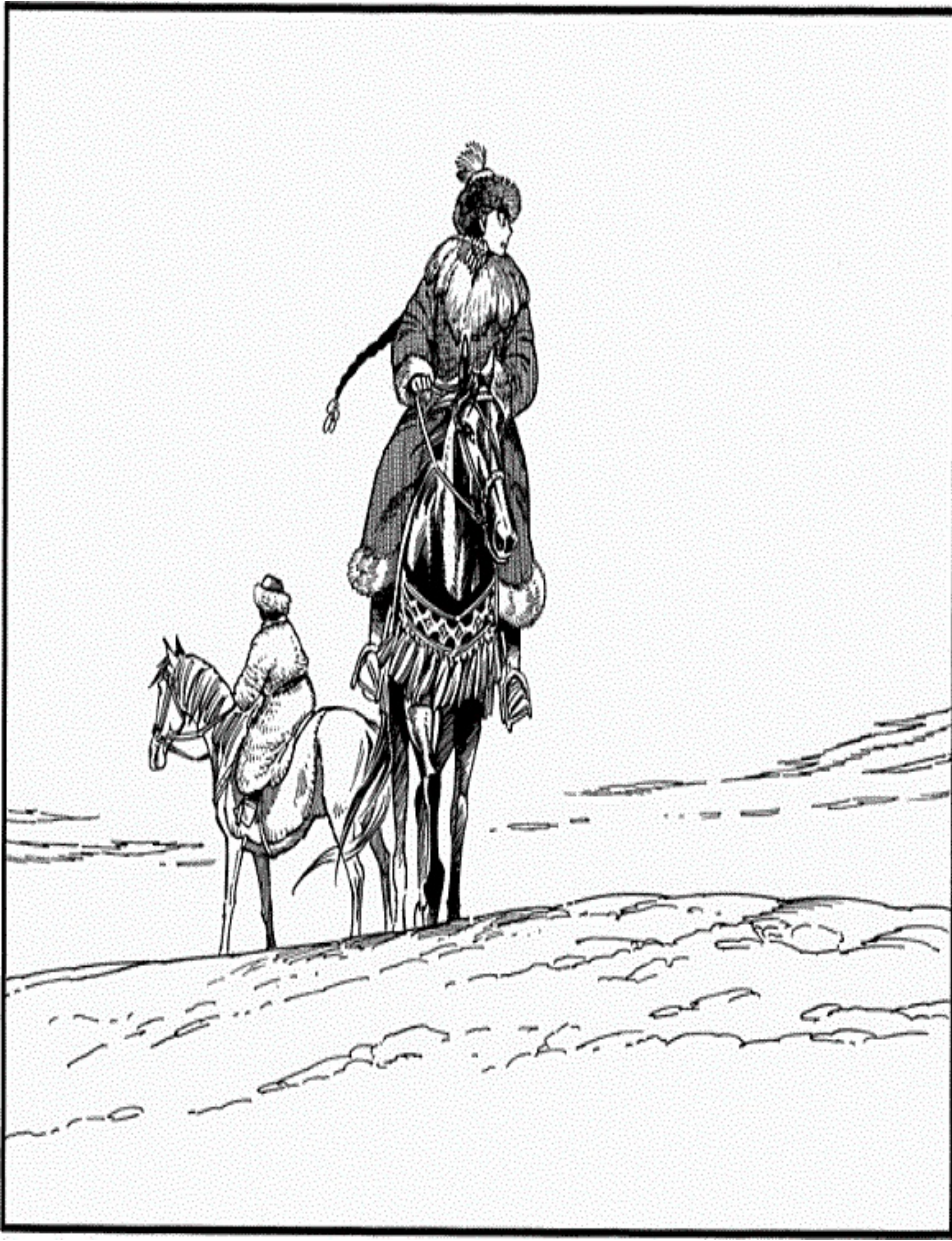






JAHAN
BIQUE.

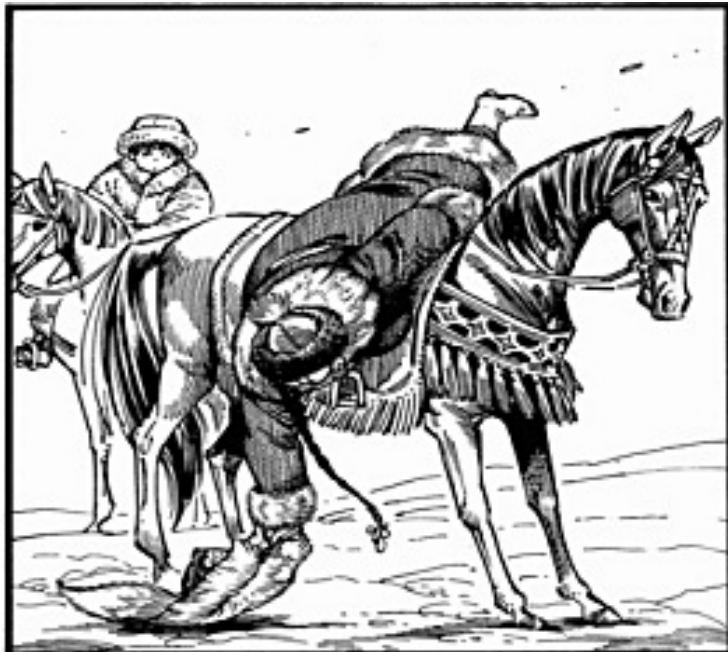




CHAPTER 100
WEDDING



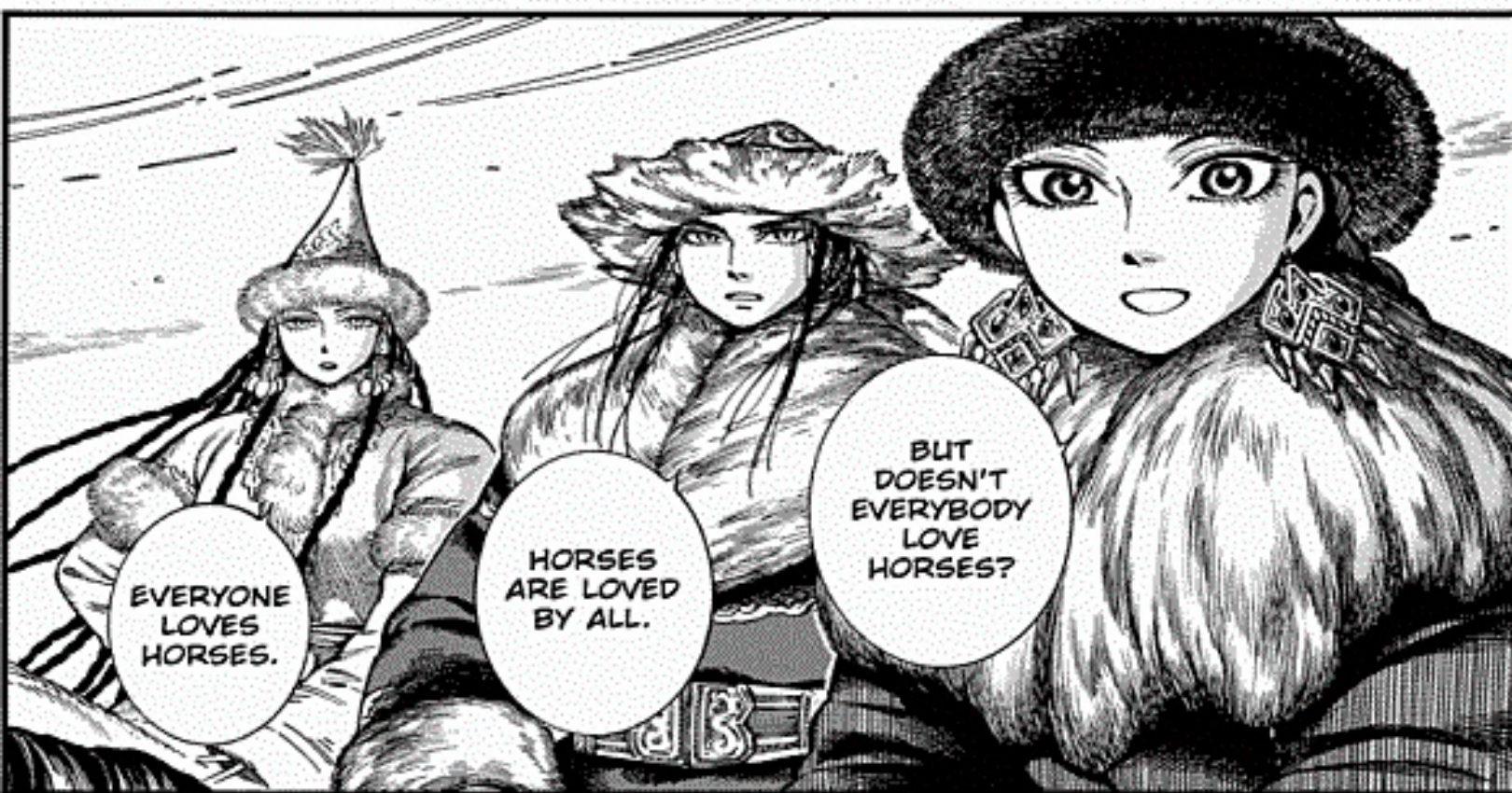




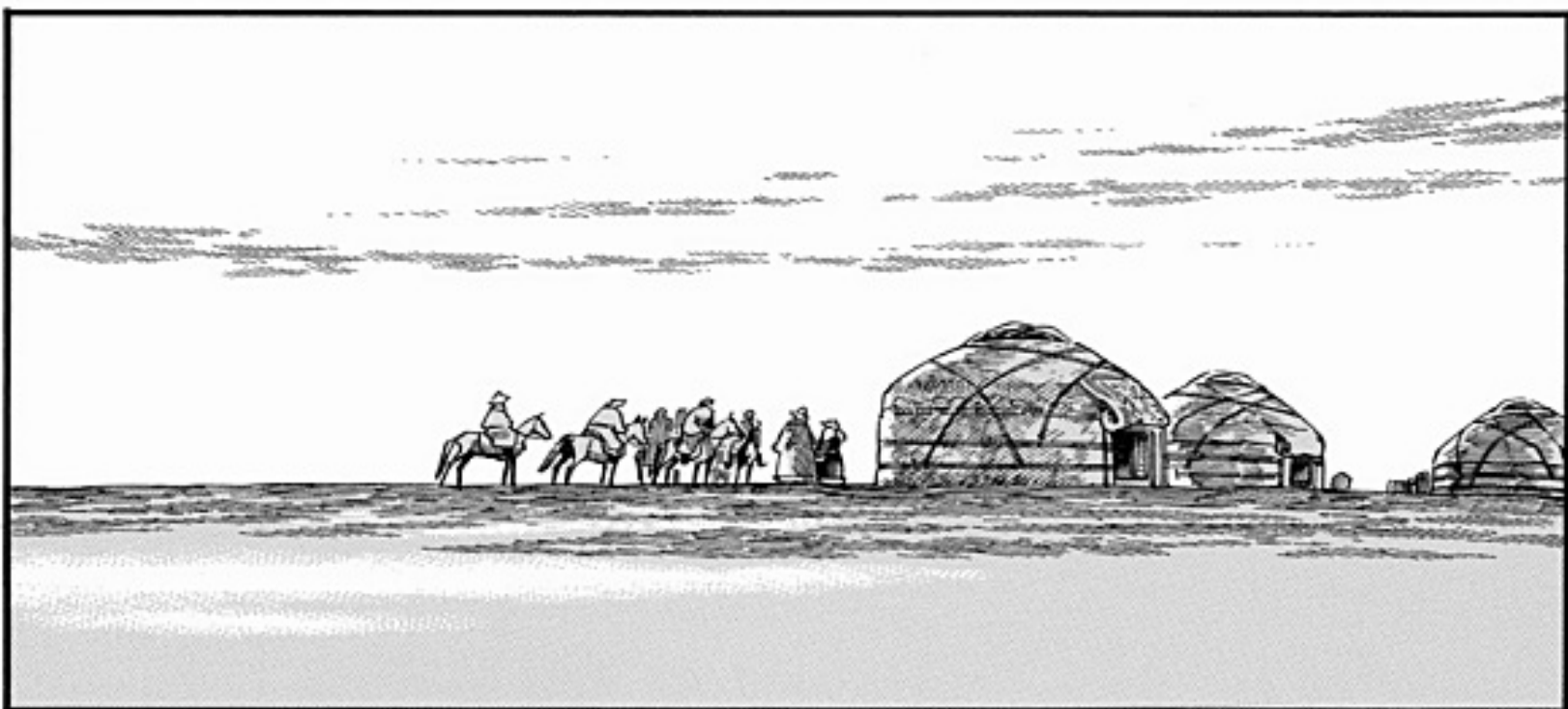
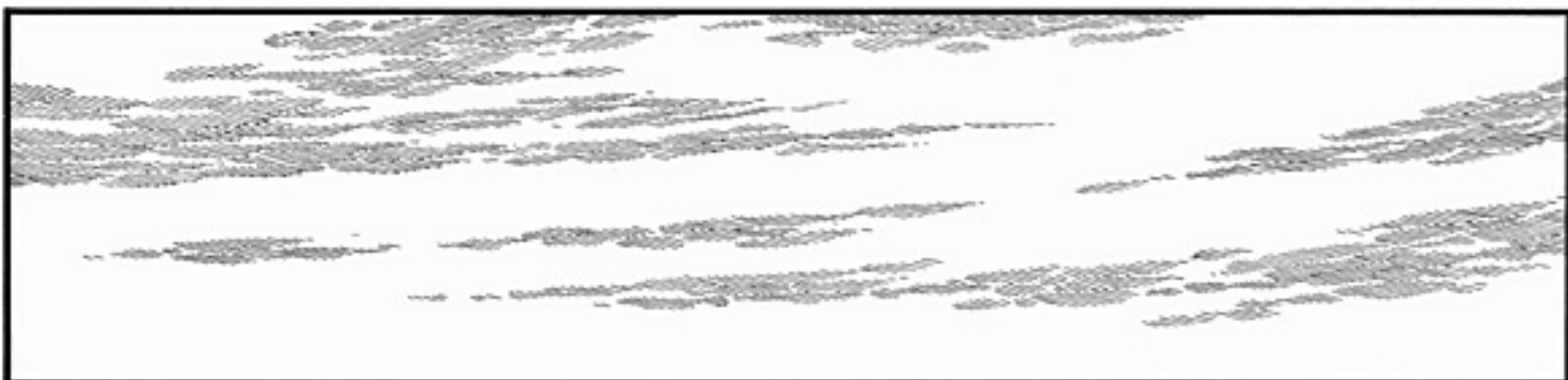


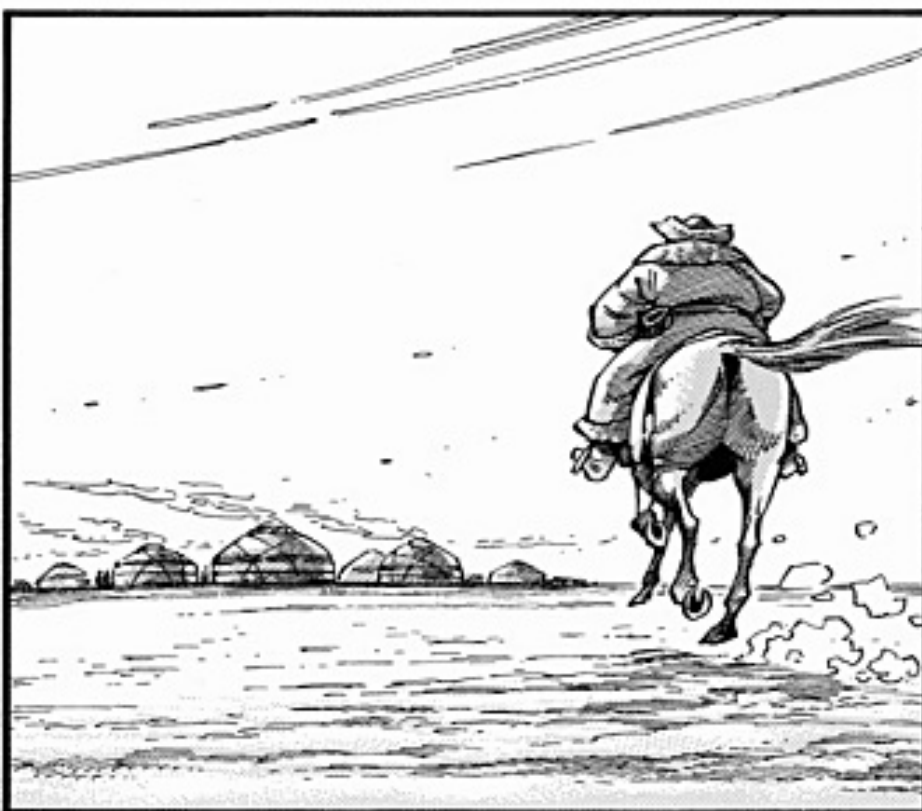




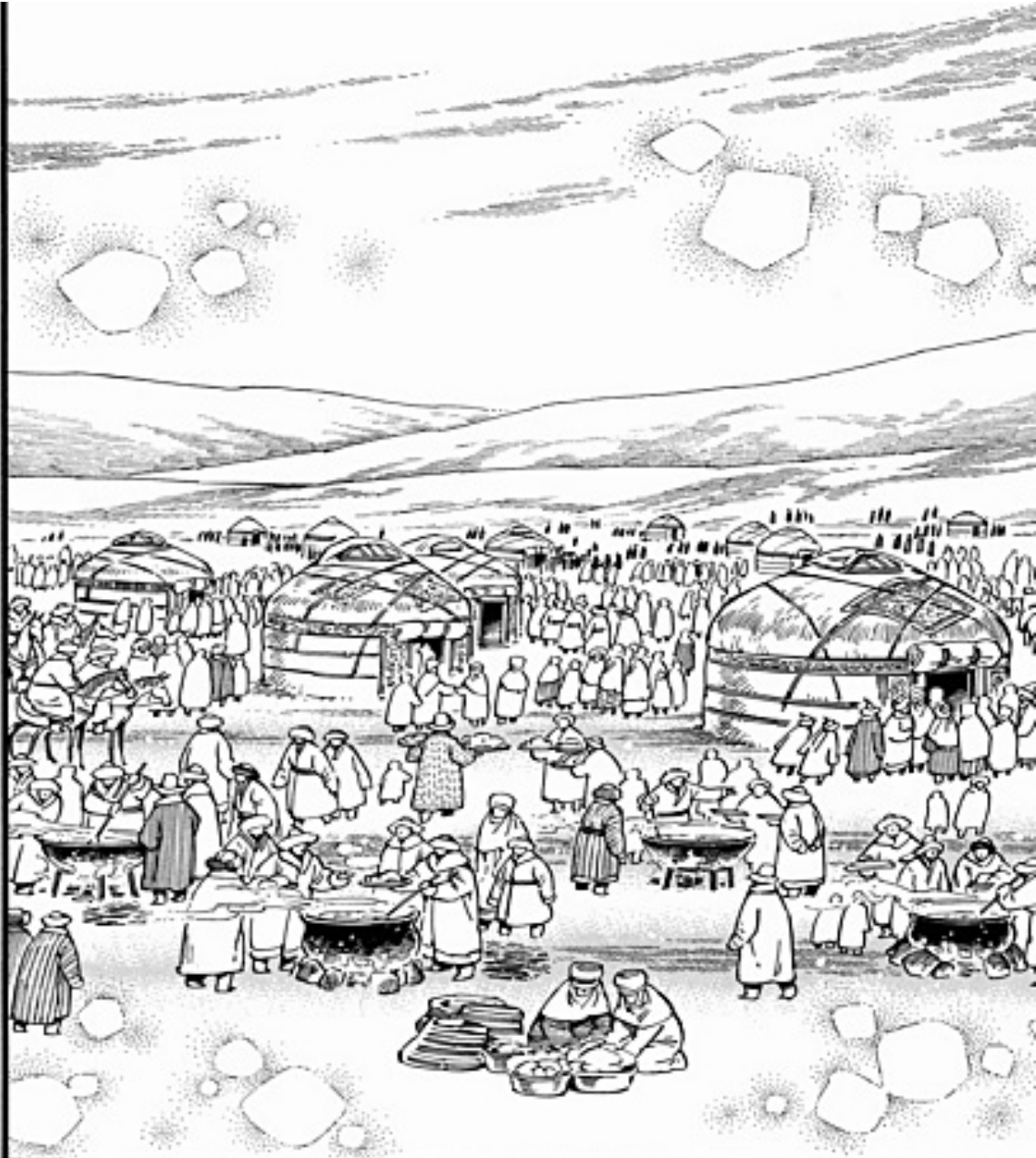




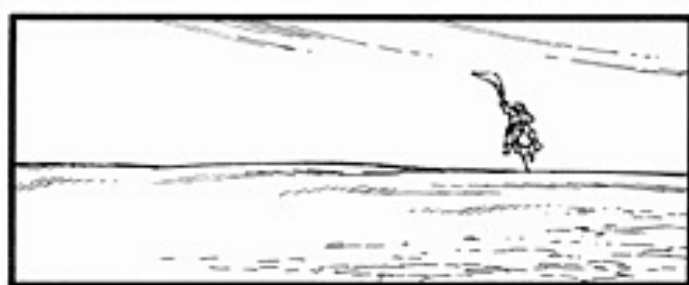
















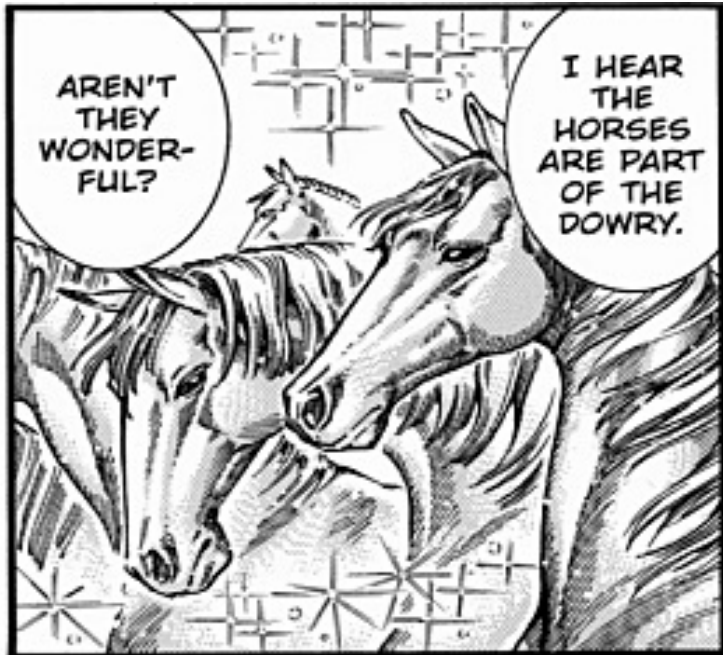






THAT'S
THE HEAD
OF THE
JANDIQ
CLAN FOR
YOU.

HE'S GOT
SOME NICE
HORSES.



AREN'T
THEY
WONDER-
FUL?

I HEAR
THE
HORSES
ARE PART
OF THE
DOWRY.



THAT'S
A GOOD
HORSE!

AND
THAT OVER
THERE, A
VERY GOOD
HORSE!



THAT
MUS-
CULAR
CHEST!

THAT
NECK!

THAT
MANE!





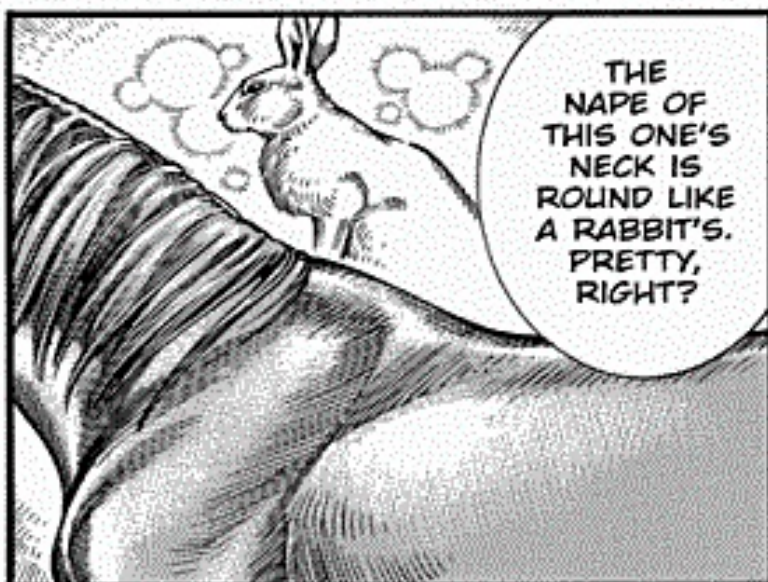






IT'S BETTER
IF IT HAS THAT
PRETTY CURVE
BACK UP LIKE
THIS.







IT'S BEST
IF ITS BODY
IS WELL-
DEVELOPED
TOO.

A HORSE
THAT IS
TOO THIN
ISN'T VERY
GOOD.



THAT
HORSE...

...IS
SPECIAL!





AND WE CAN FINALLY RELAX.

NOW OUR CLAN IS ASSURED A FUTURE.



TO HAVE THREE YOUNG BRIDES COME TO US...

I WAS WORRIED FOR A WHILE THERE.

AH, THANK GOOD-NESS!



LET'S JUST SPEND IT CELEBRATING!

THIS IS A HAPPY DAY!



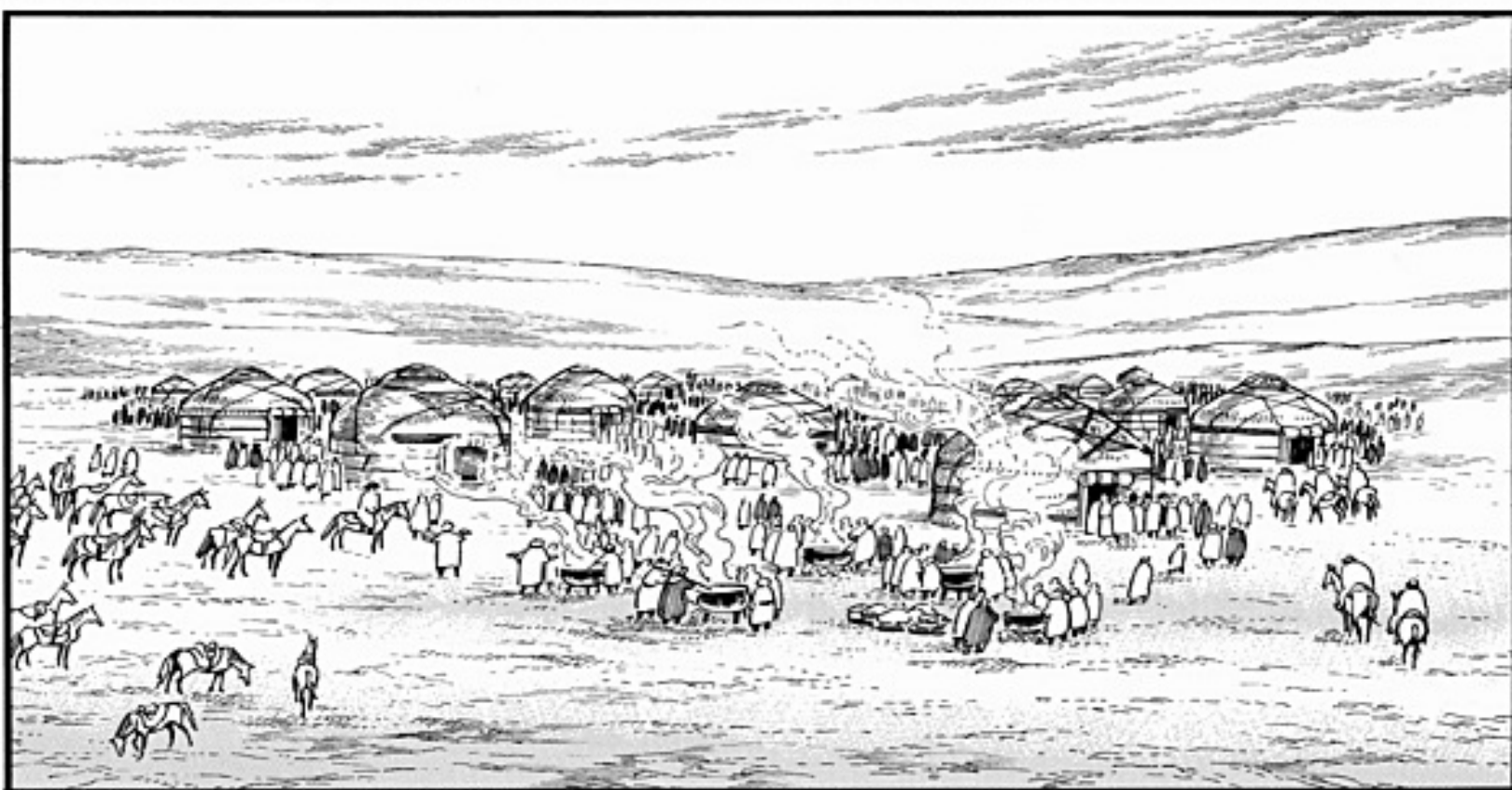
EVEN WITH MORE CHILDREN, IT WILL ALL COME TO NOTHING IF THEY PUSH US FROM OUR LAND!

OH, COME NOW!

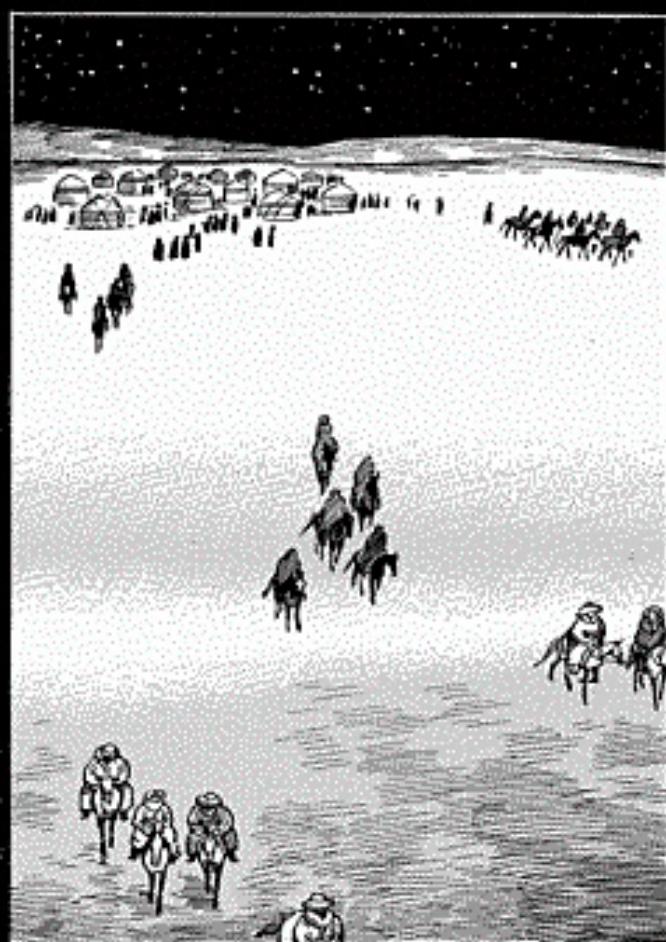


HOW CAN ANYONE RELAX!?

THIS WHOLE ARRANGEMENT IS TO MAKE A STAND AGAINST RUSSIA.







CHAPTER 101
NEW BRIDES







ALL RIGHT.
WE'LL BE
IN THE
YURT JUST
ACROSS
THE WAY.



YOUNG
GROOM,
IT'S ALL
UP TO YOU
NOW.



MY
BRIDE.



I
HAVE A
BRIDE...

...HERE
IN MY
HOUSE.





YOU REALLY
ARE CUTE,
YOU KNOW!



WANT
SOME-
THING TO
EAT?

MAYBE
YOU'RE
HUNGRY?

SHOULD I
PUT SOME
WOOD ON
THE FIRE?

YOU'RE
NOT
COLD, ARE
YOU?



I MEAN,
THE
MORE...

...THE
BETTER...
I GUESS

HUH?

LET'S
SEE...

WELL...



HOW MANY
KIDS DO YOU
WANT?

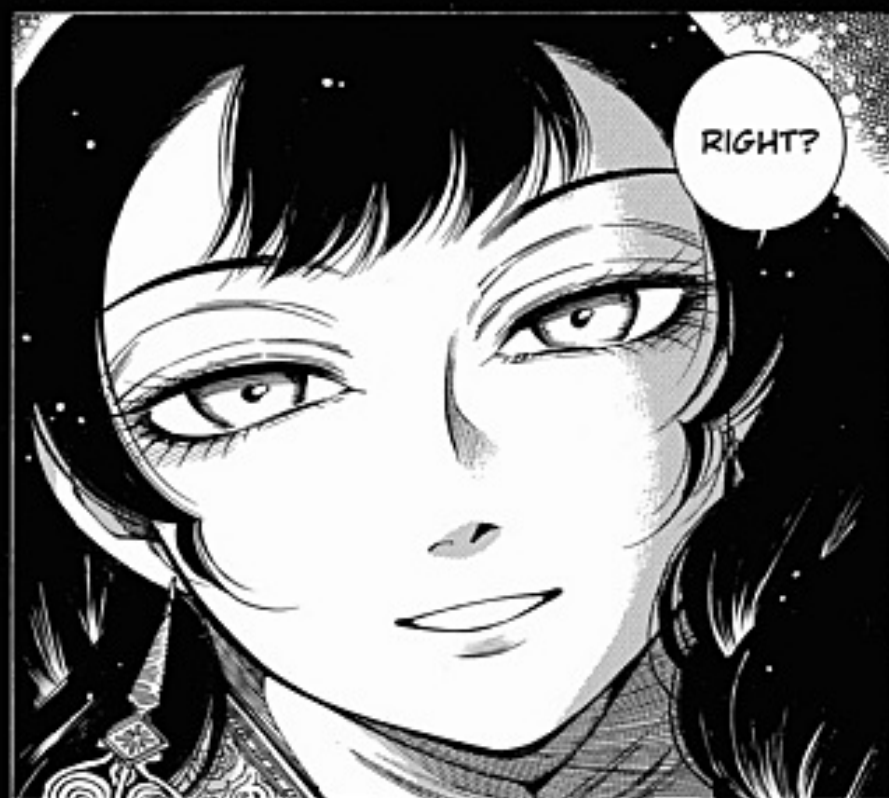
SAY,
JORLUK?



SO
TEN KIDS
ALTO-
GETHER.

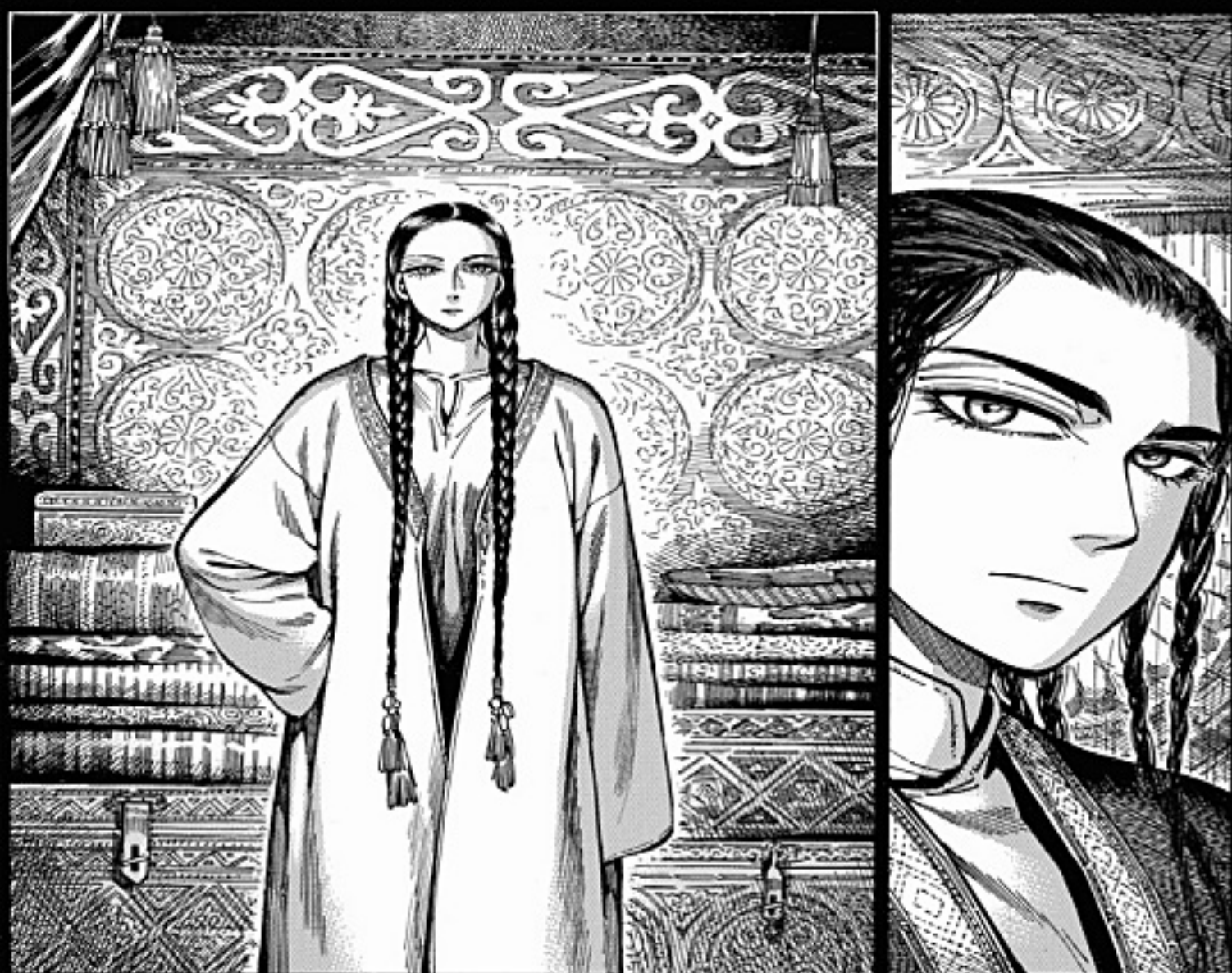
...I
THINK FIVE
OF EACH.
FIVE BOYS
AND FIVE
GIRLS...

WELL,
AS FOR
ME...













BOTH MEN
AND WOMEN
ARE BORN
FROM THEIR
MOTHERS.

IN DEFENSE
OF HER
CHILDREN,
NOTHING
IS BRAVER
OR MORE
FRIGHTENING...

...THAN A
STRONG
MOTHER
HAWK.

AND RAISED
BY THEIR
MOTHERS.

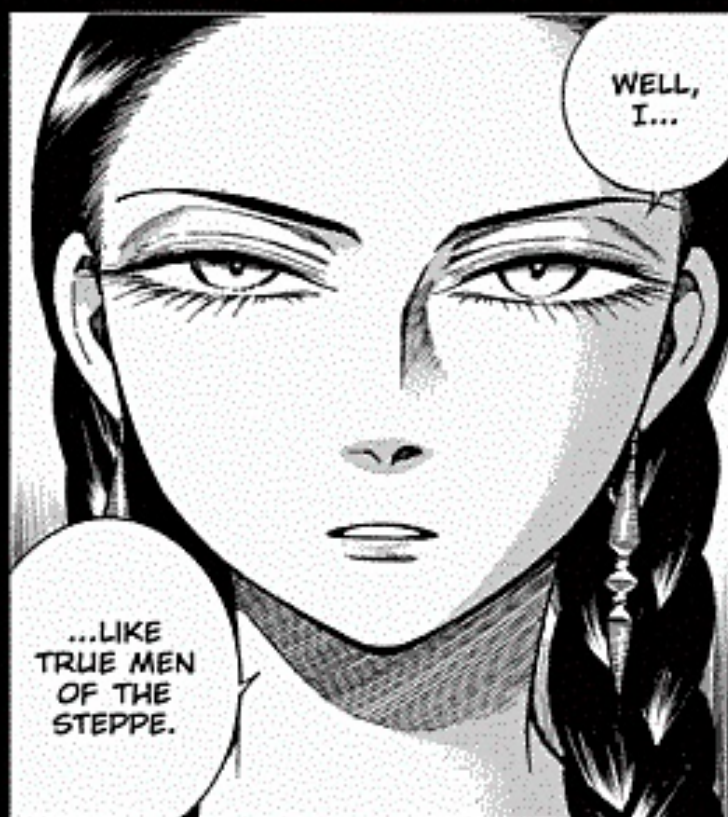
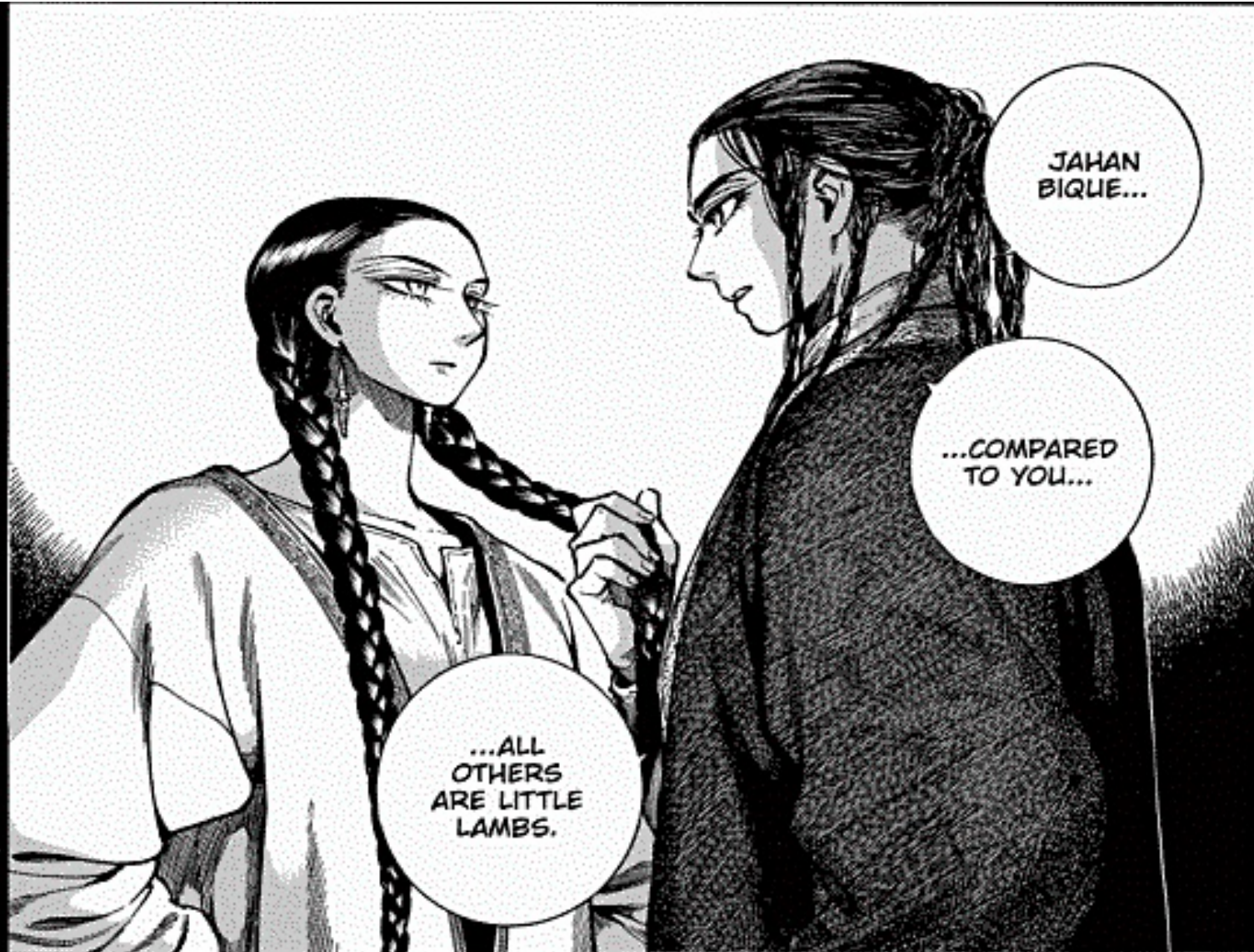


...THAT IS
WHAT I
THOUGHT.



BUT
EVEN
WITH
THAT
SAID...

...GOOD HAWKS
ARE HARD TO
FIND, ESPECIALLY
AS A MATE.





THAT IS
WHAT I
THOUGHT.

...I
WOULDN'T
ALLOW HIM TO
LAY EVEN A
FINGER ON ME
UNLESS HE WAS
A TRUE MAN.

SO
EVEN IF A
PARTNER
WAS
CHOSEN
FOR ME
BY MY
FATHER...



MEN
OF THE
STEPPE
ARE MEN
AMONG
MEN.

THEY
ARE LIKE
STALLIONS
KICKING THE
WOLVES TO
THE SIDE IN
PROTECTION
OF THE
HERD.



I WILL
ALLOW IT
OF YOU.







YOU
WILL BE
FIGHTING
RUSSIA,
CORRECT?



...THEN
YES, I
WILL.

IF THEY
INTEND TO
ROB US
OF OUR
LAND...



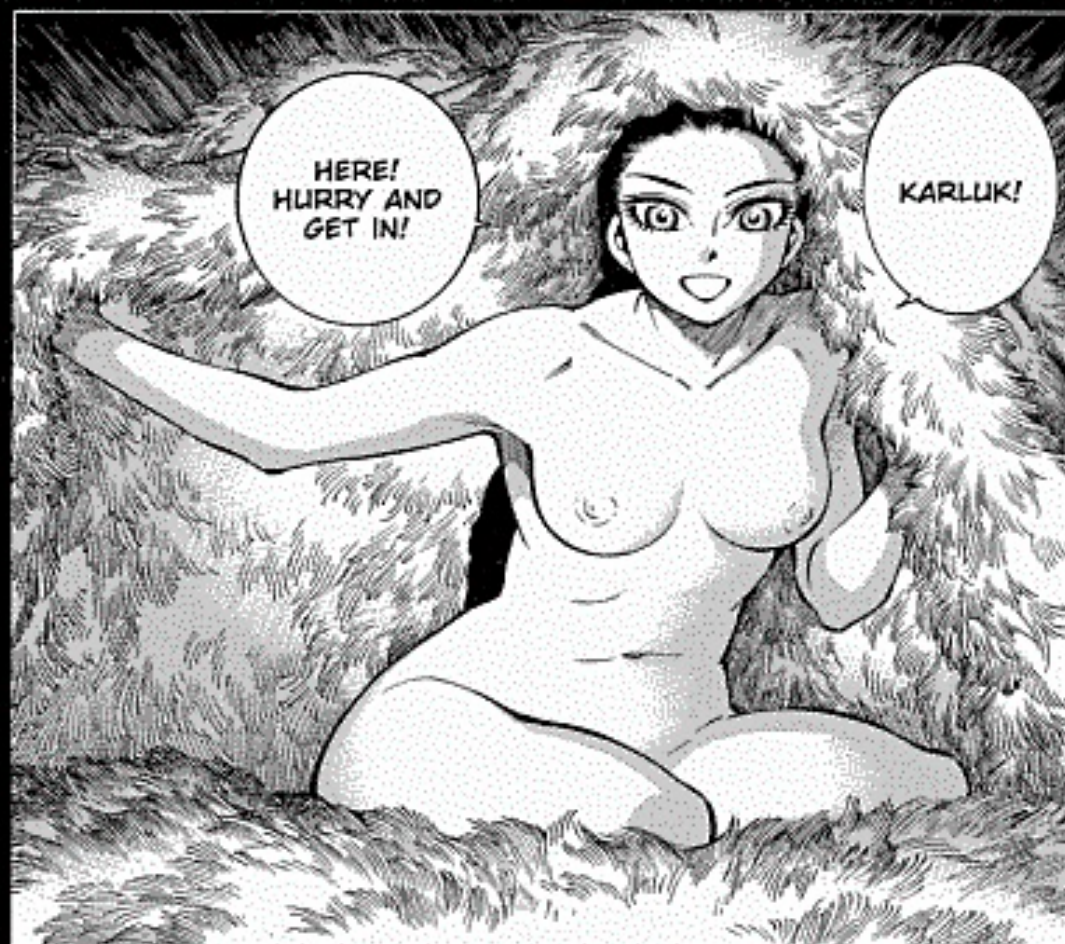
THE
DAUGHTERS
OF THE
JANDIQ...

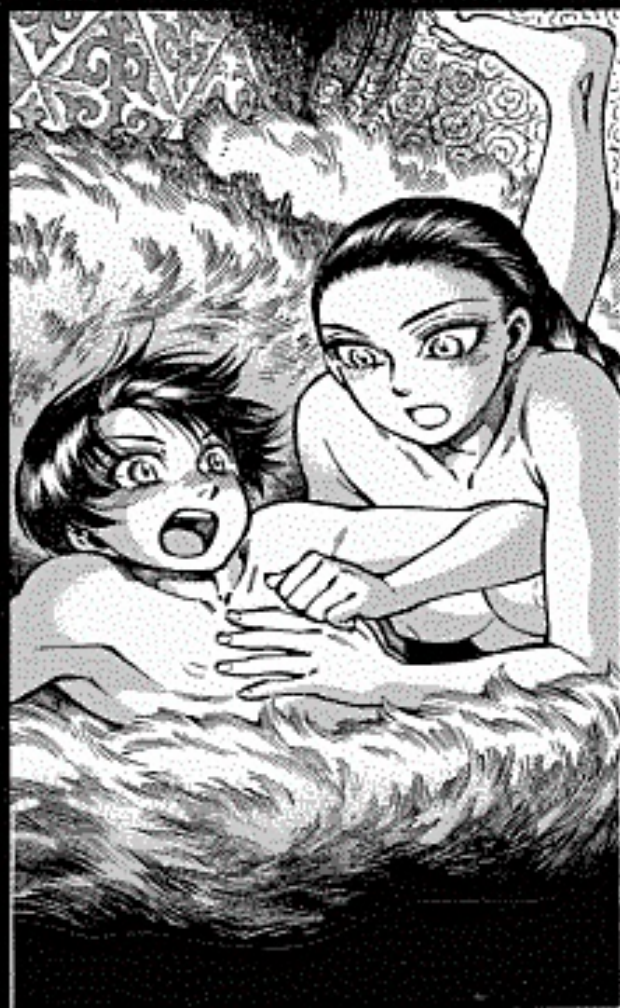
...DO NOT SIT
CRYING IN THEIR
YURTS AWAITING
THE RETURN OF
THEIR MEN.



I WILL
AS WELL.

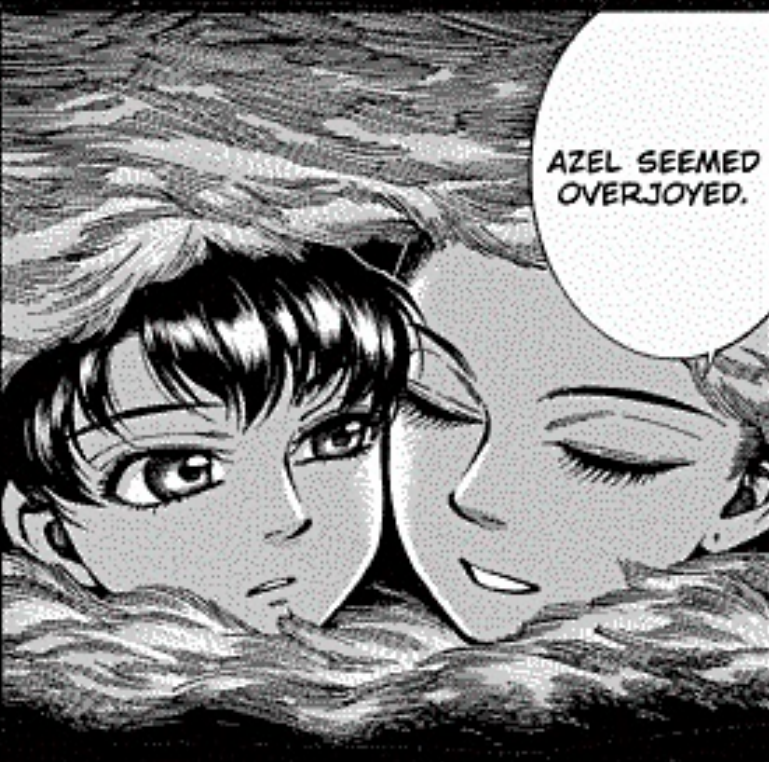








THE
HALGAL
UNCLES
WERE SO
HAPPY.



AZEL SEEMED
OVERJOYED.



THEY
SAID THIS
ENSURES
THE
SURVIVAL
OF THE
CLAN.



YES,
THAT'S
TRUE.



HE
WAS IN
A GREAT
MOOD THE
WHOLE
TIME.



DO
YOU
THINK
SO?

"OVER-
JOYED"...







AMIR.

I'LL
PROTECT
YOU.

NO
MATTER
WHAT.



...I'LL BE
THERE TO
PROTECT
YOU,
KARLUK.

THEN...



WE'LL
PROTECT
EACH
OTHER.

WON'T
THAT
MAKE US
BOTH FEEL
SAFER?

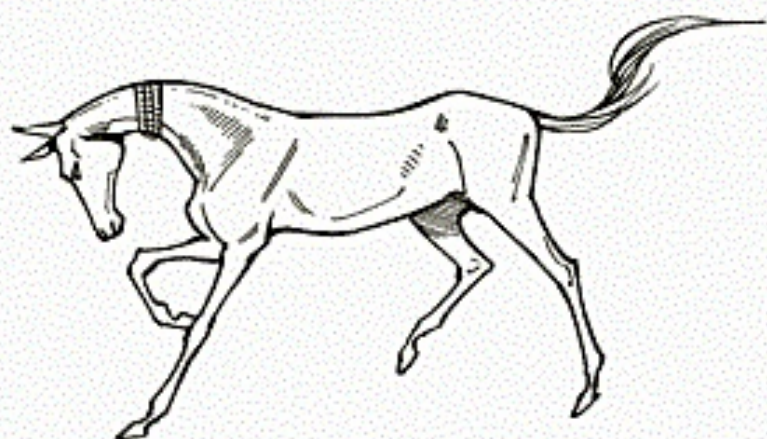


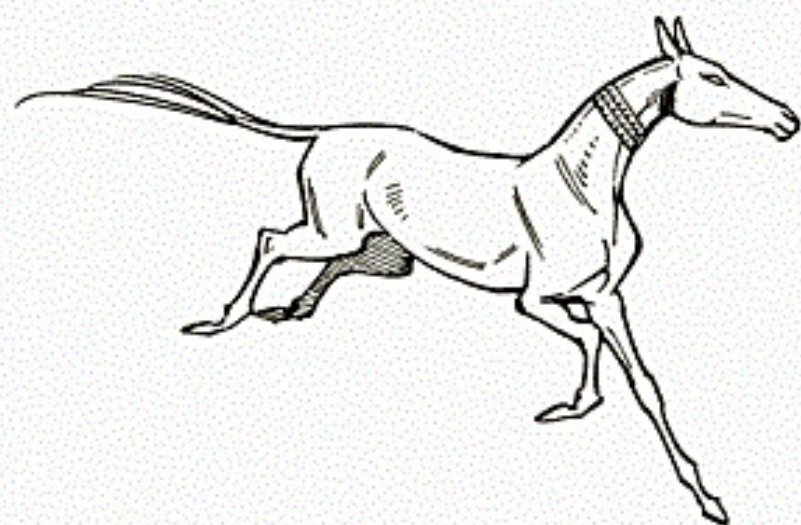
I'LL
DO THE
PROTECT-
ING.





AFTERWORD





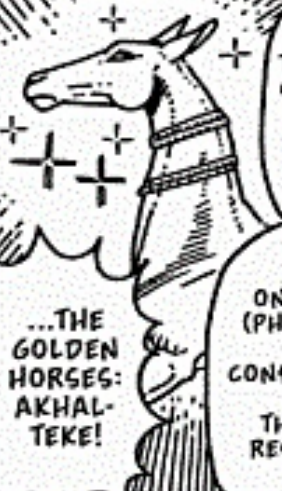
ALL THE HORSES RUN WITH A CLIP-CLOP



WHAT
ABOUT
THE
BRIDES?



OH,
THEY'RE NEW
CHARACTERS
TOO, HUH?



WHILE
THERE ARE
COUNTLESS
BEAUTIFUL
HORSES
IN THE
WORLD...

...THE
GOLDEN
HORSES:
AKHAL-
TEKE!

...THE
ONES THAT
(PHYSICALLY)
SHINE
CONSPICUOUSLY
MORE
THAN THE
REST ARE...

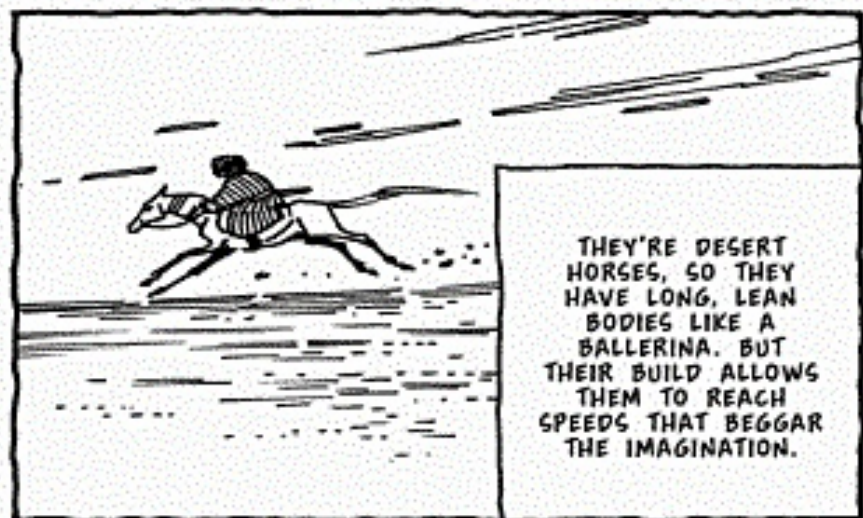
AND THE
DEBUT
OF NEW
CHARAC-
TERS!

NEI



AND THAT
BRINGS
US TO A
HORSE
RACE
ON THE
STEPPE!

GH!



THEY'RE DESERT
HORSES, SO THEY
HAVE LONG, LEAN
BODIES LIKE A
BALLERINA. BUT
THEIR BUILD ALLOWS
THEM TO REACH
SPEEDS THAT BEGGAR
THE IMAGINATION.

THE
HORSES
WERE
ORIGINALLY
RIDDEN
BY THE
TEKE CLAN
OF THE
TURKMEN.

...AND WHEN
THE SUN
HITS IT JUST
RIGHT, IT
GIVES THEM
A GOLDEN
SHEEN.

AKHAL-
TEKE HAVE
A SHORT,
SOFT COAT,
NOT UNLIKE
VELVET...



IF HE'D DIED,
HE WOULDN'T
BE MUCH OF
A MAN,
WOULD HE?

IN THE
RACE,
WERE YOU
REALLY
TRYING TO
KILL HIM?



I
BORROWED
THE NAME
JAHAN
BIQUE
FROM HIS
WORK.



ILYAS
YESENBERLIN
WROTE
A NOVEL
TRILOGY
CALLED THE
NOMADS.

OH, YES!
THE NEW
BRIDES!

WHAT
ABOUT
THE
BRIDES?





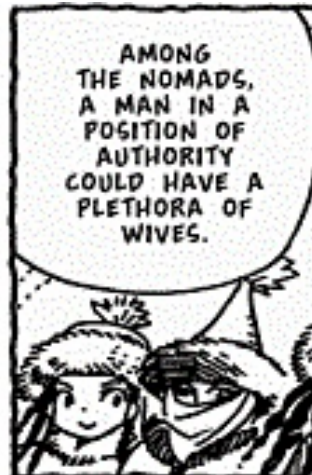
WHICH
BRINGS
US TO
THE
HORSE
RACE!



HOW
MANY, I
WONDER?

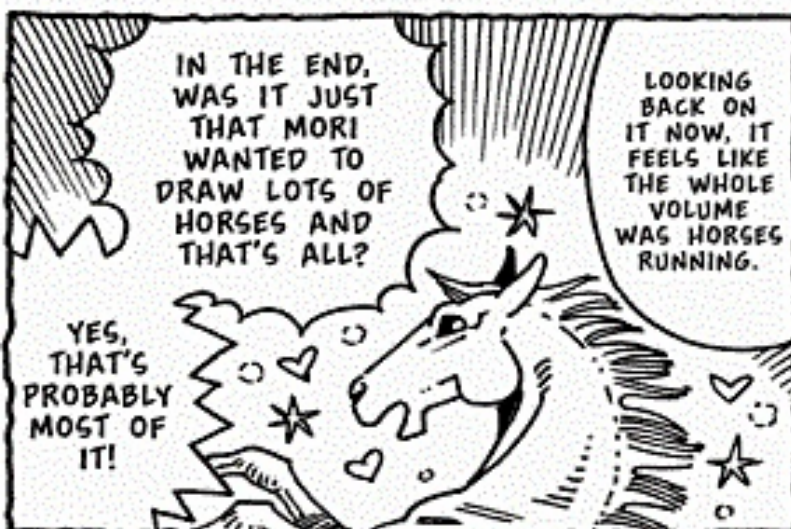
HOW
MANY
WIVES?

TWO
OR
THREE,
MAYBE?



AMONG
THE NOMADS,
A MAN IN A
POSITION OF
AUTHORITY
COULD HAVE A
PLETHORA OF
WIVES.

BY THE
WAY, ALL
THOSE
GIRLS DO
NOT SHARE
THE SAME
MOTHER.



IN THE END,
WAS IT JUST
THAT MORI
WANTED TO
DRAW LOTS OF
HORSES AND
THAT'S ALL?

LOOKING
BACK ON
IT NOW, IT
FEELS LIKE
THE WHOLE
VOLUME
WAS HORSES
RUNNING.

YES,
THAT'S
PROBABLY
MOST OF
IT!



PROBA-
BLY.

REAL-
LY?



HORSES
SOLVE
EVERY-
THING!

IF YOU'RE
TALKING
ABOUT THE
STEPPE,
IT'S
HORSES!

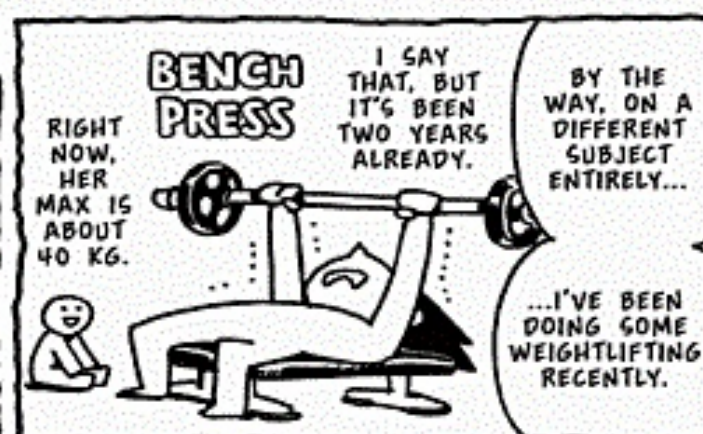
JUST DO
IT WITH
HORSES!



BUT EVEN
SO, I WANT
TO DRAW
MANGA ALL
MY LIFE.

THEY SAY
THAT THE
SITTING
POSITION IS
THE WORST
FOR ONE'S
HEALTH.

SO
I HAVE
TO BUILD
A BODY
THAT WILL
ALLOW ME
TO DRAW
FOR LIFE!



**BENCH
PRESS**

RIGHT
NOW, HER
MAX IS
ABOUT
40 KG.

I SAY
THAT, BUT
IT'S BEEN
TWO YEARS
ALREADY.

BY THE
WAY, ON A
DIFFERENT
SUBJECT
ENTIRELY...

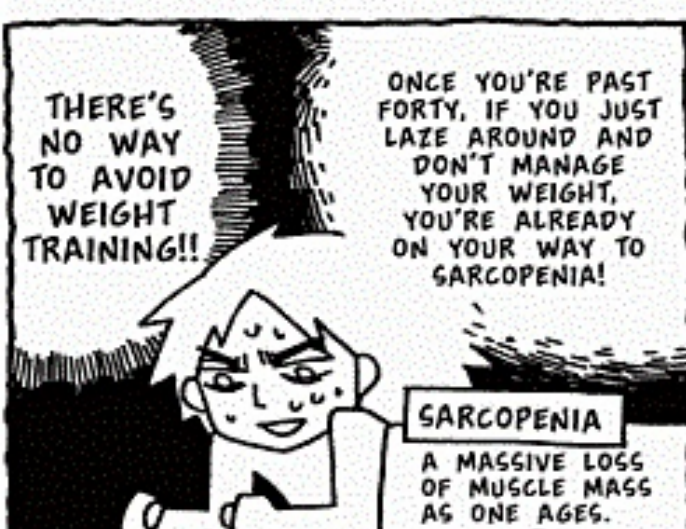
...I'VE BEEN
DOING SOME
WEIGHTLIFTING
RECENTLY.



I WANT
TO THANK
YOU
FROM THE
BOTTOM OF
MY HEART.

AND THANKS
TO YOU ALL,
MY DESIRE
TO DRAW
HORSES HAS
BEEN MOSTLY
SATISFIED.

WHO
ARE YOU
TALKING
TO?



THERE'S
NO WAY
TO AVOID
WEIGHT
TRAINING!!

ONCE YOU'RE PAST
FORTY, IF YOU JUST
LAZE AROUND AND
DON'T MANAGE
YOUR WEIGHT,
YOU'RE ALREADY
ON YOUR WAY TO
SARCOPENIA!

SARCOPENIA

A MASSIVE LOSS
OF MUSCLE MASS
AS ONE AGES.



"KAY."



...THEY
ALL
SAID...

BUT WHEN I
READ BOOKS
ON HARD
WORK, SLEEP,
NEUROLOGY,
OR BODY
MECHANICS...

"DON'T
JUST
EXERCISE,
DO
WEIGHT
TRAINING!"



SO WITH
ONE THING
AND ANOTHER,
I'D BEEN
REGULARLY
WALKING AND
JOGGING.

FORTUNATELY, A NUMBER OF ART MUSEUMS HAVE EXPRESSED INTEREST, AND NOW IT LOOKS LIKE IT WILL TRAVEL TO OTHER REGIONS OF JAPAN.

ANOTHER THING, AT THE BEGINNING OF THIS YEAR, MY (BASICALLY) FIRST EXHIBITION OF ORIGINAL PAGES WAS OPENED.

THERE WERE SOME LIMITED-TIME EXHIBITIONS BEFORE THAT.

BULGARIAN SQUAT

ALSO, IT'S JUST SIMPLY FUN.

AND THE OCCASIONAL MYSTERIOUS AILMENTS HAVE ALL BUT DIS-APPEARED.

MY BODY FAT IS GOING DOWN.

ALTHOUGH I CAN'T SAY I'M DOING IT AT A VERY HIGH LEVEL, IT IS DEFINITELY HAVING ITS EFFECT.

I GET THE FEELING THAT I'M GETTING STRONGER EVEN WHEN I'M DRAWING MY PAGES.

SEEING MY PAGES APPARENTLY AWAKENED SOME PEOPLE'S INTEREST IN PEN-AND-INK DRAWINGS.

I'D LIKE TO DRAW SOMETHING THAT DISCUSSES HOW TO USE THE TOOLS OF THE TRADE IN THE FUTURE.

I WAS OVER-JOYED.

I NEVER THOUGHT THEY'D BE SO HAPPY ABOUT IT.

REALLY OVER-JOYED.

GOOD FOR YOU!

EVERYONE SEEMED HAPPY TO BE THERE.

IT WAS GREAT.

IT WAS FUN.

DURING EVENTS AT THE EXHIBITION, I WAS ABLE TO ASK PEOPLE'S OPINIONS.

THE FERGANA REGION IS HOME TO A TOWN DEDICATED TO PORCELAIN, ONE DEDICATED TO SILK AND ANOTHER TO CRAFTS, ALL SETTLED IN ONE AREA!

THIS AREA
↓
UZBEKISTAN

...I'LL HIT THE FERGANA REGION, WHERE I'VE BEEN LONGING TO GO!

AND THIS TIME...

...CENTRAL...

I'M MANAGING TO, ONCE AGAIN, GO VISIT...

PIPE DOWN!

...ASIA!!

AND THERE'S SOMETHING THAT MADE ME EVEN MORE HAPPY!

AND SO, SEE YOU!

LIFE IS SO MUCH FUN!!

SO PLEASE KEEP READING, OKAY?

I HOPE THE RESEARCH I GET ON THIS TRIP WILL RESULT IN AN EVEN MORE REALISTIC MANGA!

I JUST WANTED TO TALK ABOUT IT.

YOU JUST WANTED TO TALK ABOUT IT, DIDN'T YOU?

I REALLY WANT TO USE WHAT I LEARN ON THE TRIP IN SOME FUTURE STORY!

IT'S A WEEK-LONG TRIP, SO BY THE TIME THIS VOLUME IS PUBLISHED, I'LL ALREADY BE BACK.

I HOPE I CAN FIND SOME BOOKS WITH GOOD REFERENCE MATERIAL.

THE END

A BRIDE'S STORY ⑭



KAORU MORI

TRANSLATION: WILLIAM FLANAGAN

LETTERING: ABIGAIL BLACKMAN

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OTOYOME GATARI Volume 14

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First published in Japan in 2022 by KADOKAWA CORPORATION, Tokyo.
English translation rights arranged with KADOKAWA CORPORATION,
Tokyo through TUTTLE-MORI AGENCY, INC., Tokyo.

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Yen Press
150 West 30th Street, 19th Floor
New York, NY 10001

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yenpress.tumblr.com * instagram.com/yenpress

First Yen Press Edition: September 2023
Edited by Abigail Blackman and Yen Press Editorial:
Won Young Seo, Ju Youn Lee
Designed by Yen Press Design: Wendy Chan

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Library of Congress Control Number: 2012450076

ISBNs: 978-1-9753-7393-1 (hardcover)
978-1-9753-7394-8 (ebook)

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

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Printed in the United States of America

